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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Bird flu outbreak: Simultaneous outbreaks of bird flu in Vietnam, China and Thailand are a coincidence and not likely to pose a major threat to the region, U.N. officials said Thursday, while China announced that it had slaughtered 30,000 chickens to contain the disease.

Despite the optimistic U.N. projections, officials in Vietnam, where the disease killed 16 people earlier this year, were taking no chances and said they were bracing for a possible resurgence.

SARS resignation: Hospital Authority Chairman Dr. Leong Che-hung said Thursday he was resigning over last year's SARS crisis, making him the second senior health official in Hong Kong to do so in many days.

Leong stressed that "no mistakes" were made by the Hospital Authority in the battle against SARS, which infected 1,755 people in the territory, killing 299 of them.

Indonesian volcano: Seismologists were monitoring a volcano on an eastern Indonesian island on Thursday after it erupted, spewing ash and dust into the air and forcing villagers to flee.

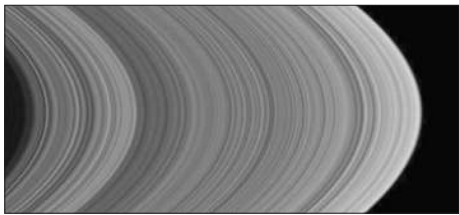
Mount Egon on Flores island was quiet following Wednesday's minor eruption, said volcanologist Syamsul Rizal. Officials stationed close to the 5,587-foot peak were watching over it from a nearby village.

Lindh slaying: A Swedish appeals court threw out a life prison sentence for the convicted killer of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, ruling Thursday that Mijailovic needed psychiatric treatment.

In an unanimous ruling by the Svea Court of Appeal, a panel of five judges said it was clear from the testimony of mental health experts that Mijailovic suffered from "borderline personality disorders."

Jenkins reunion: The Japanese wife of an American accused of deserting his Army unit 40 years ago to defect to North Korea flew to Jakarta on Thursday for a long-awaited reunion with her husband and two daughters.

The saga of Hitomi Soga, who was abducted by spies and taken to the North in 1978 and then repatriated to Japan nearly two years ago, has captured the hearts of Japan. She had to return to Japan alone because her husband, Charles Jenkins, allegedly deserted his Army unit in 1965 and would face extradition and a court martial if he were to join her in Japan.



Cassini mission: Ultraviolet images of Saturn's rings taken by the international Cassini spacecraft may offer astronomers clues about the origin of the planet's shimmering halos of ice and debris, scientists said Wednesday. The images show more ice toward the outer part of the rings, possibly providing hints about how the rings have changed over time, according to mission scientists. Saturn's rings are mostly ice but also contain other "dirty" material that astronomers want to investigate.

Military

Bahrain evacuation: About 800 military family members living in Bahrain will be flown home this week, days after U.S. officials announced that Americans in the Persian Gulf nation were at risk of terrorist attack.

Rear Adm. Stephen A. Turcotte, commander of the Navy's Mid-Atlantic region, told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper on Wednesday that military dependents in Bahrain will return by way of the Norfolk Naval Station.

States

LAPD beating probe: A police officer is under investigation for apparently kneeling an unarmed black man who was also beaten with a flashlight during an arrest.

The LAPD is looking into what role Officer Peter Bueno played in the June 23 beating of Stanley Miller, who is suspected of car theft, according to Thursday's editions of the Los Angeles Times.

Peterson trial: Prosecutors contend Scott Peterson stuffed his pregnant wife's body in the toolbox of his pickup truck before setting out to dump her body in San Francisco Bay, revealing for the first time how they believe he may have hauled the body nearly 100 miles without anyone noticing.

Prosecutors used a re-enactment of sorts to make their point, showing jurors pictures

of a pregnant woman in the toolbox.

Terror computer sales: A federal jury has convicted five Middle East-born brothers on charges of illegally selling computers to countries that supported terrorism. The men, who ran a computer company called InfoCom Corp., were convicted Wednesday of conspiracy to violate export regulations and sanctions against Libya and making false statements on export shipping documents.

Patriot Act challenge: Lawmakers who say portions of the USA Patriot Act went too far are taking aim at its provision that made it easier for investigators to learn what people are reading — despite a veto threat from the White House.

The House planned to vote Thursday on a proposal by Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., that would prevent the government from using the Patriot Act to demand records from book stores and libraries.

Business

Martha Stewart denied new trial: A federal judge in New York denied Martha Stewart's latest request for a new trial based on allegations that a government ink expert lied on the witness stand at her first trial, prosecutors said Thursday.

The decision appeared to pave the way for the celebrity homemaker to be sentenced next week for lying about a 2001 stock.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Brown convicted of 'attempted indecent act'

Sentence suspended for lesser charge in attempted rape case

By DAVID ALLEN
Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — Marine Maj. Michael Brown was found guilty Thursday of attempting an indecent act with an officers club barmaid and destroying her cell phone but innocent of the more serious charge that he attempted to rape her.

Brown was sentenced to a year in prison but the sentence was suspended for three years. He also was fined about \$1,400. The Marine Corps has not stated whether the 20-year Marine, who spent several months in Japanese custody until he was granted, might face military sanctions.



Brown

The charges stemmed from a November 2002 incident involving Victoria Nakamine. Thursday's verdict brought Brown's 19-month trial to a close.

The 20-year Marine officer, dressed in a dark blue suit and wearing an American flag tie, stood at attention as he listened to Chief Judge Nobuyuki Yokota read the court's findings. He smiled at his wife, who sat in the spectator seats in the cramped courtroom, as he sat down.

Later, as the judge read a two-hour-long explanation of the court's findings, Brown again looked her way and whispered, "I

love you."

He made no public comment following the sentencing.

In Japan's court system, both defense and prosecutors may appeal verdicts. No appeal was made on whether to appeal, although the court's decision angered Brown's attorneys.

"It was as though the court stabbed us in the back," said Toshimitsu Takaseu, the lead attorney in the case. "The ruling contains various problems. Our client was charged with an attempted rape but found guilty of attempted indecent assault. That is a problem for us."

Outside the courthouse, he called the ruling unfair.

"If the court was going to examine the case by changing the charge, they should have informed us of the change," Takaseu said. "Our defense strategies would have been different. This was totally unexpected."

"However, we are pleased with the ruling that our client was not guilty of an attempted rape," interrupted Takashi Takano, a Tokyo attorney who joined the defense in the middle of the trial.

"The court accepted our claim that the act was consensual," he said. "It is therefore a matter of course that the court found our client innocent."

The court ruled there was insufficient evidence to prove Brown attempted rape Nakamine, 41, after she agreed to give him a ride after the officers club on Camp Courtney closed shortly after midnight on Nov. 2, 2002.

Judge Yokota said there was evidence Brown had arranged a date



DAVID ALLEN/Stars and Stripes

Defense attorneys Toshimitsu Takaseu, left center, and Takashi Takano talk Thursday to reporters following the sentencing of Marine Maj. Michael Brown. A three-judge panel in Naha District Court ended Brown's 19-month trial by finding him guilty of attempted indecent assault and destroying private property.

with the woman and she voluntarily parked her car on a deserted road along the Tengen River, where they talked and kissed.

He said Nakamine told Brown she would not engage in sex on the first date and asked him to stop touching her. He got out of the car, but she agreed to let him back in and drove to a better-lit stretch of the road, where she again parked and talked with the major.

That's when, the judge said, Brown grabbed the back of the woman's neck and pulled her head toward his lap.

"She resisted, saying she was not his slave," Yokota said. "He responded that she was."

That's when Nakamine threatened to call police on her cell phone and Brown threw it into the river, Yokota said. According to trial testimony, Brown then got out of the car and walked away and Nakamine drove to Camp

Courtney's main gate and reported the incident.

She later said she exaggerated what had occurred to get police to pay attention to her and make Brown compensate her for the damaged cell phone.

Yokota said it was clear that some consensual contact had been agreed upon, but marks on Nakamine's neck showed some force had been used. However, the force was used in an attempt to perform an indecent act, not rape.

"They found him guilty of indecent assault only because he grabbed the woman by her head," Takano said after the hearing. "We cannot help but question the court's decision."

The trial was marked by a series of surprises, including one in May 2003, when Nakamine, testifying via closed-circuit television, denied Brown had tried to rape her and blamed police and prose-

cutors for coercing her to file charges. She said she did not understand enough Japanese, especially legal terms, to be able to read the statements she signed.

The judges disagreed, stating that she is married to a Japanese man, has lived here since 1987, and knew enough Japanese to pass a Japanese driver's license written test.

Yokota said the three-member panel discounted her allegation as being "unnatural" and said she appeared to have been influenced by a \$13,500 deposit into her bank account the day before she changed her story. The source of the money has never been determined.

Brown's defense attorneys denied it came from anyone connected to the defense.

The prosecution had argued that, whatever the source, there existed the possibility the money made Nakamine change her mind.

Yokota said Brown was given a light sentence because the 20-year Marine veteran had no prior criminal record.

"He spent his life honestly and diligently as an officer who started out as an enlisted man," Yokota said.

The defense and prosecution have two weeks to decide whether to appeal the court's ruling. The Marine Corps has not made a decision whether Brown will face disciplinary action.

Brown, assigned to the headquarters component of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, is married and has two children. He was held in the Naha Detention Center for five months before being released on bail in May 2003. Family members have indicated he will seek to retire.

Chiyoumi Sumitrita contributed to this report.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@strips.odd.mil

Camp Zama story line ...once upon a time

By JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — A five-minute, free phone call gives kindergarten-age children at Camp Zama and its housing areas an escape into the world of make-believe and an educational tool to help them develop focus and concentration.

"Dial-a-story" began about two years ago as a weekly service parents could call to allow their children to hear a story. The librarian at the time created it with a box full of books on tape and a DSN line.

"She wanted children on base to have a chance to listen to short stories," said Harumi Kondo, a librarian at Camp Zama's main library, "so [the children] could concentrate on something."

The system receives about 15 calls a week. The library has about 122 story cassette tapes to rotate through weekly.

The stories are pegged to various seasons and holidays, such as the story "Independence Day"

last week. The stories feature animated voices and musical accompaniment, created for children about 6 years old.

Familiar fairy tales and moral lessons are used. This week's story explains why the sea is salt water.

The story ends with a reminder that more stories await children in print at their libraries.

"Come see us soon," chirps a friendly voice.

Other bases, including Yokota Air Base, have similar programs, which will be featured in some bases during National Reading Month or other special occasions. Kadena Air Base on Okinawa expects to resume its story phone line this fall after renovations to its library.

Along with the story phone, Zama's libraries have story-hour programs led by community volunteers. They read stories and sometimes do crafts and games, Kondo said.

Libraries also hold summer reading programs to encourage children to maintain their good



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Volunteer Walter Reece, left, reads to the children of Sagami Housing Area during the library's story hour.

reading habits all year.

The programs all strive to encourage children to learn about their libraries and "to encourage children to read," Kondo said.

To reach Zama's Dial-a-story, call DSN 263-5810. At Yokota, call 225-204.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittler@strips.odd.mil

2 await legal action

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Misawa officials said Thursday they don't know yet whether any legal action by U.S. military authorities will be taken against two airmen who allegedly used brass knuckles in an off-base fight last month.

Capt. John Haynes, Misawa spokesman, said Japanese authorities hadn't turned jurisdiction in the case over to U.S. officials as of late Thursday afternoon. "Unless they do so and an investigation is completed, we cannot speculate as to possible legal actions taken against the two airmen," he said.

A spokesman from the Morioka District Public Prosecutor's Office said Thursday that all the paperwork in the case was completed. Misawa base has custody of the airmen, who returned to work Thursday.

Darius Carlton and Michael Alan Maldonado — both 20 and airmen first class — were arrested June 26 and detained on suspicion of attempted murder for allegedly beating up two Japanese men in Morioka. Japanese prosecutors dropped the case Wednesday and decided not to press charges. The airmen were released from jail Wednesday.

From staff reports

funeral flag to attend one last service

Made to cover caskets in German POW camps, flag to reunite with owner for his burial

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP RED CLOUD, South Korea — A flag colored in part with the blood of U.S. prisoners of war and draped over their coffins for funerals at stalags will be used one last time at Arlington National Cemetery next month.

The flag will cover the coffin of its owner, retired Sgt. Robert Hopkins, the former enlisted chaplain from the 38th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, used the flag at more than 300 POW funerals during World War II.

It will be transported to the Virginia cemetery from his home at the 2D ID Museum at Camp Red Cloud, where Hopkins left it in 1979.

Hopkins was captured in the Battle of the Bulge at Krinkelt, Belgium, in December 1944 and forced to march with 2,300 POWs to a stalag, or World War II German prisoner of war camp.

"Within two weeks of being a prisoner, it was my sad job to bury over 700 American soldiers. Not because they were all wrong out. Not because they were ready to die but because someone didn't want them to live. The Germans would shoot them for sport," he recalled at the time he

donated the flag to the museum.

Hopkins was a POW at Stalag VIIIA near Gorlitz and in January 1945 officiated the first formal military funeral service inside Germany, for American POW Bruce Schalm.

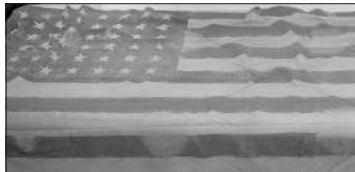
The Germans agreed to allow a flag to be used and for Schalm to be buried in a makeshift casket made of boards bound with wire. Prison corpses were normally stripped and tossed in an open pit, Hopkins said.

"The flag ... was made from two sugar bags, which two British soldiers stole from the camp," he recalled.

It was painted with blue and red dye mixed with blood, he said. "That was easy to come by. Soldiers were always bleeding to death," he said.

Guards photographed the service for propaganda purposes but POWs stole the photographs. The Germans were furious, Hopkins said.

"Three days later, I watched two British soldiers being shot to death by having bullets fired into their feet, then every six inches up their bodies until they died. Their last words were 'Don't let them find the flag, use it for the memory of all who die,'" he said. "When Hopkins was transferred to another stalag he took the flag



This U.S. flag, used at funerals of Allied POWs during World War II, is headed from South Korea to Arlington National Cemetery, where it will be used during its owner's funeral.

SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

with him. He and other soldiers carried it for more than 2,300 miles all over Germany, he said. "The flag was laid so no German could find it. After we left Gorlitz the guards were more tolerable and at times we were permitted to use the flag, then the flag would go into hiding again," he said.

Four months later, Hopkins escaped, taking the flag with him. After the war he became a Methodist Minister in Natural Bridge, Va.

After he died earlier this month, his family asked the 2nd

ID Museum to loan them the flag for his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Center for Military History approved the request and the flag is on its way to Arlington. It will return to the 2D ID Museum after the ceremony, a museum staff member said.

"We are honoring a member of the greatest generation and this is the least we can do. This guy was a real hero," the staff member said.

Hopkins' son, Norman Hopkins, who served as a U.S. Army sergeant in Vietnam, said his fa-

ther often told the story of the flag, which sat in a cupboard of their home while he was growing up.

"When I was young, I used to see the flag and hold it in my hands. Dad would tell me about the British soldiers who got shot because they would not give it up. The flag meant a lot to my dad and it means a lot to me," he said. Norman Hopkins said that although his father was a chaplain, he carried a .45 revolver and a Thompson machine gun during the war.

"He was asked one time ... why he carried guns. He said: 'A shepherd must protect his flock.'"

Hopkins' funeral will include an honor guard to fold the flag before its return to the museum, he said.

The British soldier's sacrifices for the flag are an example for today's soldiers, Norman Hopkins said.

The last time it was used at a funeral, that was in World War II. I hope ... the alliances we have in Europe and in Asia are as strong as they were during World War II. It doesn't matter if it is a South Korean soldier, a French soldier, an Italian soldier or an Australian soldier. The alliance should be there."

Email Seth Robson at: robson@pstripes.com

N. Korea fortifying since war in Iraq, South's government says

BY JEREMY KIRK

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — North Korea has been testing ballistic missile defenses and building new trenches since the beginning of the United States' war in Iraq, the South Korean Defense Ministry said in a new report.

The report was given Tuesday to members of the National Assembly's Committee of State Security, said Defense Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Nam Dae-yn. The National Assembly is South Korea's legislature.

North Korea also has been camouflaging bases near the Demilitarized Zone, renovating about 400 24 mm artillery guns and improving around 40 tanks, the report said. The country has constructed about 80 new defensive trenches, it said.

North Korea also has been careful about

S. Korea: North has missiles

SEOUL — North Korea has begun making and deploying new intermediate-range ballistic missiles that could reach U.S. military targets in Okinawa, Japan and the Pacific U.S. territory of Guam, South Korea's Defense Ministry said Thursday.

Since last year, South Korean and Japanese news media, citing anonymous intel-

ligence sources, have reported North Korea's development of a new missile with a 1,860-2,500 mile range.

Testifying before the parliament's National Defense Committee, Defense Minister Cho Young-kil said Wednesday that those missiles have already been deployed.

"North Korea is continuing its missile development, engaging in such activities as engine tests," Cho was quoted as saying.

From The Associated Press

traffic in the Yellow Sea near the Northern Limit Line, the invisible sea border between the Koreas.

Officials believe North Korea has continued developing its Taepodong-2 missile, with a range of up to 3,700 miles. A Korean raised alarm in 1998 with a test firing of a Taepodong-1 missile over Japan.

North Korea admitted to a secret nuclear program in October 2002, but negotiations to end the program have been unsuccessful. The United States believes North Korea may have a few crude nuclear weapons, one of which North Korea has threatened to test.

But the country's robust missile pro-

gram is believed to bring the regime hard currency. During a December 2002 ship intervention in the Indian Ocean, Spanish forces found 15 Scud missiles purchased from North Korea by Yemen.

"The North Korean ballistic missile inventory includes over 500 Scud missiles that can deliver conventional or chemical weapons across the entire peninsula," U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon LaPorte told Congress in March.

The United States has said it wants to withdraw about 12,500 troops from South Korea by the end of next year, but negotiations on the timetable for the change continue.

U.S. officials maintain that a troop withdrawal won't upset the security environment and pledged to spend \$11 billion to upgrade defense systems in South Korea.

Jennifer Kleenick contributed to this report. E-mail Jennifer Kirk at: kirk@pstripes.com

Yokosuka bank hours

Navy Federal Credit Union on Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, begins new hours of operation Monday.

The hours are: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Atsugi gate closure

The south entrance of the Resource Center, Building 949, at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, closes Saturday due to construction.

The entrance is expected to reopen Aug. 25. Customers can use the north or east entrances.

Office closes for a day

The base communications office at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, will close July 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. due to a command function.

Call DSN 264-3559 in case of an emergency.

Yokota fitness day

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota Sports & Fitness Day is set for Wednesday.

Competitive events are slated throughout the day, including aerobics, a Samurai challenge, 5K run/walk, one-pitch softball tournament, coed select shot golf,

coed 3-on-3 basketball, sand volleyball, tug-of-war and swimming relays. All squadrons will receive five points per event entered.

Contact the Yokota Sports & Fitness Center at DSN 225-8881 for more information.

Guam war tales

The "Bamba Files," a collection of stories about the strife, suffering and bravery that took place during the Japanese occupation of Guam, were turned over to the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center at the University of Guam on Wednesday, the Pacific Daily News reported.

Cecilia Bamba and her son, George, both former island senators, began compiling tales from survivors two decades ago in an effort to keep them alive for future generations. The center also took possession of the Guam War Claims Review Commission's findings, the paper reported.

The combined files, which fill 26 boxes, document the experiences of more than 25,000 Chamorro survivors from World War II. Cecilia Bamba's father, Jose Cruz, was beheaded by Japanese soldiers during the conflict, according to the report.

Those interested in viewing the documents should make an appointment.

The Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center in Mangilao is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays. Call 735-2157 for more information.

From staff reports

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Gregson hopes any shift would have more troops on mainland

Top Marine in Pacific favors realignment to Japan

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — If U.S. Marines are removed from Okinawa in the military's possible realignment of forces in the Pacific, the top Marine commanding general in theater favors stationing them on mainland Japanese military bases versus anywhere else in the theater.

"I think moving away from Japan moves us away from where the need is and where most of the problems are likely to occur," Lt. Gen. Wallace Gregson, commander of Marine Forces Pacific, said Thursday.

"Where we would move? Don't know. But ... the purpose of a move would be to enhance our ability to train with the [Japanese] Self-Defense Forces," Gregson told defense reporters. "Moving onto one of their bases somewhere, or a number of them, might make sense. It's an option that I think is yet unexplored, but that would be the one that I think would."

The Defense Department is in the midst of a massive analysis of possible realignment of forces worldwide, but also is poised to position forces to deal with threats posed by North Korea.

For years, there has been speculation of a reduction in the roughly 17,000 Marines in the Pacific, particularly the 15,000 stationed on Okinawa. U.S. military bases occupy almost one-fifth of the island.

The Pentagon has boosted assets in the Pacific, including positioning long-range bombers on Guam, and studying whether to base a nuclear aircraft carrier at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

While there has been tension between Japan and Okinawans and the U.S. military, it is a love-hate relationship blown out of proportion by those who don't live on the island, Gregson said.

"The general impression outside of Okinawa is that it's two warring camps divided by a cyclone fence and we're at each other's throat all the time," Gregson said. "That could not be further from the truth."

Marines register the highest voluntary extension and reenlistment rate in the Corps, and a majority of the Okinawans favor the U.S. military presence there, he

explained. Good government-to-government relationships provide a foundation for possibly sharing bases, he said.

"The [Japanese] Self-Defense Forces and the Japanese Defense Agency are changing as we watch, and if we're going to grow into an ever tighter alliance with the Japanese, who support our mutual interests in the Pacific ... maybe it's also time to talk about combining the bases. We're almost there now."

Lt. Gen. Wallace Gregson

on one side of the runway and Japanese on the other side of the runway, and everybody works together. It's a combined base in everything but name."

E-mail Lisa Jontz at: jontz@stripes.com

Army gives final OK for Hawaii Stryker brigade

By B.J. REYES
The Associated Press

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The commander of Army forces in the Pacific on Wednesday gave the final approval needed for basing one of the Pentagon's fast-moving Stryker Brigade Combat Teams in Hawaii.

Lt. Gen. James Campbell's signing of a final environmental impact statement was praised by state leaders and panned by environmental groups.

"This is good news for Hawaii and the nation," Democratic U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye said through a spokesman. "By basing a Stryker Brigade in Hawaii, our soldiers will be able to move swiftly to cope with any security threat in the Asia-Pacific region."

But Ikaika Hussein, a spokesman for the environmental group DMZ Hawaii/Aloha Aina, repeated concerns of opponents who say the transformation of the Army's light infantry division to a unit based around new 20-ton, eight-wheeled armored vehicles will have severe consequences for the islands.

"We're disappointed but we're not surprised," he said.

"Whenever the military uses land, it's been our experience that the land is lost."

Transforming the 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks would include upgrades and expansion at Army facilities on Oahu and the Big Island.

The Department of Defense has earmarked \$30 million to expand the Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island's Saddle Road through the purchase of 23,000 acres of Parker Ranch land for a non-leisure training area. The Army also plans to

build roads on the Big Island and on Leeward Oahu to accommodate its military convoys.

Construction on the first of 28 projects — a training range at Schofield — is expected to begin this fall as the Army works to have facilities ready for 300 Stryker vehicles that would start arriving in Hawaii by May 2006, Campbell said. The unit is expected to be operational by the following year.

In addition to the 300 Stryker vehicles, another 800 soldiers would be sent to Hawaii to make up the full complement of 3,500 soldiers envisioned for each of six Stryker brigades nationwide capable of arriving at any world hot spot within days.

Campbell on Wednesday sought to ease fears of environmentalists, noting that the Army spent \$10 million over the past two years in compiling the 900-page environmental impact statement, with another \$40 million earmarked for future efforts to preserve the environment.

"When the Army trains, we're going to have an impact, that's clear," Campbell said. "Can we answer every concern and can we mitigate to the point where there is no impact? I would say, 'No, we can't.' What we can do is we can minimize those impacts and that's what we're looking to do."

Campbell noted that the Army proposed over more than 2,000 comments offered on the Stryker proposal since the draft of the environmental impact statement was made public last year.

He said 400 of those comments resulted in changes to the original plan, which include more monitoring of air content, more efforts to reduce noise from training and hiring more consultants.

U.S. troop numbers in Afghanistan grow

Now at 17,900, force strength likely to remain steady until end of year

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. military forces in Afghanistan now number 17,900 and are likely to remain at that level at least through the New Year, according to senior Pentagon leaders.

Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, the Joint Staff's director of operations, gave the size of the current U.S. presence in Afghanistan during testimony Wednesday before the House Armed Services Committee.

His revelation that there are close to 18,000 U.S. troops involved in Operation Enduring Freedom appeared to surprise some members of the committee — including Rep. John Spratt, a Democrat from South Carolina — who had presumed a considerably smaller presence.

"We have a huge ongoing mission" in Afghanistan, Spratt said. "Yet we've only got 12,000 troops there ... Are we slighting and undersizing, under-resourcing the

mission in Afghanistan because of the demands on the mission in Iraq?"

"In point of fact, right at the moment we have about 17,900 U.S. troops in Afghanistan," Schwartz replied. "And that number is adequate for the mission."

Schwartz said the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan "has grown over the last few months for several reasons, including anticipation of [Afghan presidential] elections in the early fall."

Schwartz said that the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan would remain steady "for months to come."

"I believe that after the first of the year we'll begin to see some adjustments," Schwartz said. "Troops currently in Iraq represent the fifth major rotation since the United States became involved in that country in late 2001."

According to Schwartz, the bulk of the U.S. force is made up of soldiers from the 25th Infantry Division from Hawaii.

Those troops include the 25th ID Headquarters, Division Artillery Headquarters, its Aviation and Support Brigades, and the 2nd and 3rd Combat Brigade teams.

The training mission for the Afghan National Army, meanwhile, is now the responsibility of the Oklahoma National Guard, Schwartz said.

Augmenting the 25th ID are Marine aviation and ground forces, many of whom are from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit from Camp Lejeune, N.C., Lt. Gen. Jan C. Huly, deputy commander of the Marine Corps for Plan, Policies and Operations, said during the hearing.

The 22nd MEU has been on the ground for three or four months," Huly said.

The Marines are at Forward Operating Base Ripley in south-central Afghanistan, according to the official 22nd MEU Web site (www.usmc.mil/22ndmeu).

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.com

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Insurgents kill 5 GIs in Samarra attack

BY RAVI NESSMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents bombarded a headquarters used by U.S. troops and Iraqi forces with mortar rounds in the city of Samarra on Thursday, destroying the building and killing five U.S. soldiers from Germany-based units of the 1st Infantry Division and one Iraqi guardsman, the U.S. military said.

The attack, part of a day of violence and street battles in the city, wounded 20 U.S. soldiers and four Iraqi guardsmen, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, a 1st ID spokesman.

The violence also killed three civilians, medical officials said. U.S. helicopters killed four Iraqi attackers, O'Brien said.

Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, located in the so-called Sunni Triangle, is a hotbed of anti-coalition resistance. Since March it has been the headquarters of Task Force 1-26, made up primarily of soldiers from the 1st ID's 2nd Brigade in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Iraqi insurgents began a massive attack on forces there about 10:30 a.m., when they launched 38 mortars at the Iraqi National Guard headquarters, collapsing the building, O'Brien said. The attack came one week after Lt. Col. Kirk Allen, the Task Force 1-26 commander, had turned over civil control of the city to its mayor amid cheers and fanfare.

The military said some of the mortar rounds landed in civilian areas.

About 25 minutes after the mortar attack — when radar determined where the attack had originated — U.S. soldiers responded with four mortar rounds.

U.S. and Iraqi troops fanned out through the city to flush out insurgents and were fired on by four men who fled into a building, O'Brien said. U.S. helicopters attacked the building with Hellfire missiles, killing the attackers, he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Steve Liewer contributed to this report.

Missing Marine reported safe in embassy in Beirut

BY SAM F. GHATTAS
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A U.S. Marine who disappeared in Iraq 18 days ago has arrived at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, where American officials are debriefing him, an embassy spokeswoman said Thursday.

Cpl. Wasfel Ali Hassoun is safe and appears to be in good health, a Pentagon official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We picked him up in Beirut," said embassy spokeswoman Elizabeth Wharton. She did not say who initiated the contact, but added that "obviously" there had been some coordination.

She said Hassoun was accompanied by family members.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said: "We were able to get him."

Boucher said Hassoun arrived

at the embassy around 6 p.m., but he had no other details and no information on Hassoun's immediate plans. As for his military status, Boucher said that would be up to the Defense Department.

When reached at his West Jordan, Utah, home Thursday morning, Hassoun's brother, Mohamad, said he had no comment.

Contradictory reports have surrounded the fate of the 24-year-old Lebanese native since his disappearance June 20.

On Saturday, a statement posted on a Web site known for extremist Muslim comment said Hassoun had been beheaded. A day later, another Web statement declared he had not been killed.

U.S. television network NBC reported the Navy was investigating whether his disappearance may be part of a kidnapping hoax. A Marine spokesman confirmed the Navy investigation remains open.

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IN THE STATES

Former Enron CEO surrenders to FBI

BY KRISTEN HAYS
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Former Enron Corp. CEO Kenneth Lay surrendered Thursday, and the government unsealed an indictment charging him in a wide-ranging scheme to deceive the public, company shareholders and government regulators about the energy company that he founded and led to industry prominence before its collapse.

The federal indictment adds 11 counts against Lay to charges already filed against his hand-picked protégé, former CEO Jeffrey Skilling, and former top Enron accountant Richard Causey.

It accuses Lay of participating in a conspiracy to manipulate Enron's quarterly financial results. It also accuses him of making public statements about Enron's financial performance that were false and misleading and omitting facts necessary to make financial statements accurate and fair.

In a separate action, the Securities and Exchange Commission filed civil charges Thursday against Lay, accusing him of fraud and insider trading and seeking recovery of more than \$90 million in what the agency said were illegal proceeds from stock sales.

The contents of the criminal indictment, returned Wednesday, were released a few hours after Lay was taken away in handcuffs after surrendering to the FBI Thursday morning.

The indictment of Lay, 62, who also was Enron's chairman, caps an investigation that snared dozens of other employees and execu-

tives but took nearly three years to reach the man at the top.

Enron's collapse in late 2001 cost investors billions of dollars, put thousands of Enron employees out of work and wiped out retirement savings for many. The company, once admired, became a symbol of corporate greed and excess, and its fall was followed by a string of scandals at other companies.

"Nice of you all to show up this morning," Lay, accompanied by a pastor, told a throng of reporters before entering the FBI offices. About 20 minutes later, he left in handcuffs for the trip to the federal courthouse and a scheduled late morning appearance before a federal judge.

The indictment accused Lay, Skilling and Causey of enriching themselves through salaries, bonuses, grants of stock and stock options.

It specifically names Lay in 11 counts: one count of conspiracy, two of wire fraud, four of securities fraud, one bank fraud and three of making false statements to banks.

Prosecutors have aggressively pursued the one-time celebrity CEO and friend and contributor to President Bush who led Enron's rise to No. 7 in the Fortune 500 and resigned within weeks of its stunning failure. Lay is the 30th and highest-profile individual charged.

The indictment particularly focuses on Lay's behavior after Skilling abruptly resigned in August 2001 before Enron's collapse.

Skilling had succeeded Lay as CEO six months earlier. He was indicted in February on nearly

Enron founder charged



Lay

Former Enron Corp. chairman Kenneth Lay has been indicted on criminal charges relating to the energy company's collapse. Lay surrendered to federal authorities on Thursday, when the indictment against him was expected to be unsealed.

Awaiting trial

Former CEO Jeffrey Skilling and former top accountant Richard Causey are charged with conspiracy, fraud and insider trading. Both pleaded innocent and are free on bond.



Causey



Fastow

Former finance chief Andrew Fastow, who pleaded guilty to two conspiracy counts in January.

three dozen counts of fraud and other crimes.

Prosecutors allege Lay knew Enron was preparing to announce massive third-quarter losses and a \$1.2 billion writedown in shareholder equity, yet told Enron employees in a Sept. 26, 2001 Internet chat that he had strongly encouraged management to buy Enron stock.

Ridge: Al-Qaida may target U.S. elections

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER
SHRAIDER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States is tightening security in the face of a steady stream of intelligence indicating that al-Qaida may seek to mount an attack aimed at disrupting the November elections, the White House says.

The Department of Homeland Security is addressing the threat and has efforts under way to "ramp up security," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Thursday.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said President Bush's administration based its decision to bolster security on "credible" reports about al-Qaida's plans, coupled with the pre-election terror attack in Spain earlier this year and recent arrests in England, Jordan and Italy.

"This is sobering information about those who wish to do us harm," Ridge said. "But every day we strengthen the security of our nation."

U.S. officials do not have specific knowledge about where, when or how such an attack would take place, but the CIA, FBI and other agencies "are actively working to gain that knowledge," Ridge said.

Notwithstanding the heightened air of vigilance, the government is not raising its color-coded terror alert status, he said.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist told reporters that Americans should not expect a major announcement on homeland security any time soon, indicating that the nation's threat level could remain at its "elevated" level.

"There's, obviously, no reason for panic, or paralysis," Frist said

after a briefing for senators on intelligence matters. "The country is at some increased risk between now and the time of the presidential election. It's important for people to be aware of that."

"What is clear is that law enforcement has generally been notified... There are enhanced activities on behalf of law enforcement around the country to engage in deterrence and prevention," he said.

In April, a working group made up of representatives from agencies that touch on law enforcement, homeland security and intelligence was established to deal with a series of events through the election period that may be attractive targets for terrorists, including the presidential nominating conventions.

Senior administration officials and counterterrorism experts view the coming months as a time to increase vigilance out of concern that Islamic militants may try to replicate the political success they had in Spain with coordinated pre-election train bombings.

Nearly 200 people died in the March attack in Madrid, and the prime minister's ruling Popular Party lost to a rival who promised a pulloff of Spanish troops from Iraq.

Elaborate plans are already in the works to protect the Republican party convention in New York in late August and the Democratic convention in Boston this month, which have been classified as National Security Special Events. With the designation — a concept that evolved from the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta — comes federal funds, increased preparations and heightened security.

Ky. governor narrowly escaped shoot-down order

BY SPENCER S. HSU

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The top general at the North American Aerospace Defense Command was on the telephone and prepared to order an F-16 fighter to shoot down an unidentified plane that

turned out to be carrying the governor of Kentucky to President Reagan's funeral last month, according to a federal security official's brief and separately obtained the incident.

The tense incident June 9 ended after the twin-engine Beechcraft King Air carrying Re-

publican Gov. Ernie Fletcher turned to land at Reagan National Airport.

But the close call caused officials to reassess safeguards for the airspace around Washington and prompted calls to expand the no-fly zone beyond its current 16-mile radius.

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STARS & STRIPES

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Boy arrested in Donaldson ranch shooting

By PETE HERRERA

The Associated Press

HONDO, N.M. — ABC newsman Sam Donaldson knew Delbert Paul Posey, his wife and children. The happy, well-adjusted family — as he described them — had been running one of his new Mexico ranches for more than two years.

So Donaldson knew something bad had happened at his Chavez Canyon Ranch when he went to check on the family and

found a large, instantly recognizable stain on the front porch.

Cody Posey, 14, was arrested at a friend's home Wednesday on charges of murdering his father, stepmother and step-sister. Their decomposing bodies were found stacked in a shallow grave near their home.

"Sam was very fond of all of them and was visibly shaken," Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan said, adding that the case was one of the worst he has seen in his 36

years of law enforcement.

The sheriff said the case is still being investigated but it appeared that Delbert Paul Posey, his wife, Tryone Posey, and 14-year-old stepdaughter Mary Lee Schmid had been shot on Saturday.

The slayings marked another tragedy for the Posey family. Delbert Paul Posey's parents were found shot to death in bed at their ranch southwest of Roswell in February 1995. Authorities said the single gunshot wounds suffered by Jay and Linda Posey

were consistent with a murder-suicide.

Donaldson and his wife, Jan, were in Santa Fe during the Fourth of July weekend, when the crimes apparently occurred. Donaldson said on "Good Morning America" Thursday morning that the family was an "all-American ranch family" and that he didn't see trouble beforehand.

"Paul was a little hard on his son, but that's the way ... you raise young men. I never saw Paul raise his voice or his hand in anger to his son," Donaldson said.

Express airline screening starts up

New program speeding up security process for some frequent flyers

By BRIAN BAKST

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Select airline passengers breezed through security at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in the start of an experiment to ease delays and make flying a little more agreeable.

Under the program, frequent business fliers will not be subject to random searches if they pass background checks in advance and do not set off any alarms while moving through security.

Minneapolis-St. Paul is the first of five U.S. airports to take part in the program, which could be made permanent. Airports in Boston, Los Angeles, Houston and Washington are scheduled to adopt the practice over the next two months.

By midmorning Wednesday, about 50 Northwest Airlines passengers used the special express lane that the Transportation Security Administration hopes will reduce wait times for frequent fliers while allowing screeners to focus their attention elsewhere.

Over the past two weeks, about 2,400 frequent business travelers have signed up, providing scans of irises and fingerprints and extensive personal information. That information was cross-checked against several criminal and terror-related databases.

On Wednesday, some of those registered travelers were moving through the lone express lane at the airport's six security checkpoints. It took about a minute for registered travelers to get through security and about five minutes for everyone else.

The registered travelers presented their boarding passes to an agent who asked them to put their left index finger on a scanner.

After about three seconds, a computer screen read "Success. You may proceed."

The registered travelers still had to go through a metal detector and their carry-on bags had to go through an X-ray machine. However, they were not subject to random searches once they passed that point.



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35. Best cheap date

37. Best E Club

38. Best O Club

39. Best restaurant

41. Best breakfast

Dining/Entertainment OFF BASE

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44. Best American food
46. Best romantic dinner
47. Best cheap date
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49. Best seafood
50. Best steak
51. Best local cuisine
52. Best live music/dancing
53. Best breakfast

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IN THE WORLD

Philippines halts sending contract workers to Iraq

BY OLIVER TEVES

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ordered her government Thursday to stop sending Filipino contract workers to Iraq after one was abducted there, but made no immediate decision on kidnappers' demands to withdraw peacekeepers.

A video, broadcast by the Arab television station Al-Jazeera on Wednesday, showed three armed and masked men standing behind the seated hostage, threatening to kill him if the Philippines doesn't pull out within three days.

Hostage crisis has country examining peacekeeping role

It did not give any details of the man's capture, but the group claimed to have killed an Iraqi guarding him.

The Philippine charge d'affaires in Baghdad, Ricardo Endaya, confirmed the hostage was a Filipino abductee near Fallujah.

ABS-CBN TV, quoting the Philippine ambassador in Qatar, identified him as Angelo Dela Cruz, a truck driver who crossed into Iraq from Saudi Arabia.

"Technically we are not yet ne-

gotiating with the hostage-takers, but we have already established lines of communication with them through intermediaries," Endaya said.

Arroyo "ordered an immediate stop to the deployment of new workers going to Iraq," her spokesman, Ignacio Bunye, earlier told The Associated Press.

"And then she is asking for an assessment from our Middle East team."

The president, whose order applies to those hired by govern-

ment labor agencies, also offered help for any workers who wanted to come home. There are about 4,000 Filipinos employed in U.S. military bases in Iraq as cooks, mechanics or in other jobs.

Fifty-one Philippines soldiers and police are part of the multinational force in Iraq.

The deployment is scheduled to end later this month, and Manila has been considering whether to extend their tour of duty.

A Cabinet committee held an emergency meeting to address

the hostage crisis as a lobby group for 7 million overseas workers urged Arroyo to meet the kidnappers' demands.

Migrant spokesman Vince Borneo said the incident shows "how negligent the government is toward sending our workers abroad."

There are other choices, other countries, where their safety can be assured.

Roy Cimatu, head of the government's Middle East team, was to fly to Iraq later Thursday to "exert all efforts" to save the abducted Filipino.

He emphasized that Filipino troops are not involved in combat in Iraq.

N. Koreans remember founding father

BY HANS GREIMEL

The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Koreans mourned their founding father on the 10th anniversary of his death Thursday, while pledging loyalty to his son, Kim Jong Il, whose first decade in power has been an often-chaotic flirtation with reform, economic collapse and nuclear confrontation with the United States.

The reclusive nation has been in a weeklong frenzy to tribute to the late president Kim Il Sung, who died 10 years ago Thursday after running the nation for a half-century and forging the world's only communist dynasty. But amid the mass rallies, speeches, film festivals and newly published books celebrating the "invincible and iron-willed" elder Kim, the hard-line regime is also heaping praise on his son — who skillfully tightened his grip on power over the last decade despite critics who once pegged him for a risky playboy who wouldn't last long.

In delivering a national tribute Thursday, Vice-Marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Il Chul hailed Kim Il Sung as an "invincible and iron-willed" commander and peerless legendary hero."

But he also stressed that the nation's 1.1-million-member military is "firmly determined to hold Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il in higher esteem and remain single-heartedly united around him" and deal the country's foes "merciless crushing blows."

When Kim Jong Il took power, many outsiders doubted whether he had the charisma or cunning to hold the regime together.

But the secretive leader, in his signature blue jumpsuit, surprised critics with his resilience, rallying the military around him despite a failing economy, inter-



Children leave Mansudae after paying homage to the statue of late North Korean leader Kim Il Sung in central Pyongyang, North Korea. Pyongyang citizens paid their respects on Wednesday, one day before the 10th anniversary of Kim's death.

national isolation and two stand-offs with Washington over nuclear projects.

"He's played a deuce-high hand very well," said Daniel Poneman, a National Security Council staff member under former Presidents Bush and Clinton. "In terms of maintaining political power, he has been very successful. But for his people, he's been a disaster."

Kim Jong Il had a bumpy start, taking the reins in 1994 amid an earlier nuclear dispute with the United States that flared in the waning years of his father's rule.

The junior Kim won points for quickly reaching an agreement with Washington to mothball the North's atomic ambitions and scored again in 2000 by hosting a

historic summit with then-South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.

In between, however, he presided over a collapsing economy and a nationwide famine, which killed hundreds of thousands and left the country dependent on outside food aid.

In recent years, Kim has commanded loyalty from his impoverished 22 million people while dabbling in cautious economic reforms, including profit incentives and foreign investment.

Trade with South Korea has nearly doubled to \$724 million since the 2000 inter-Korean summit, the divided Koreans are opening a joint industrial complex north of their heavily fortified border, and the North's economy grew an estimated 1.8 percent in 2003, posting its fifth straight year of expansion.

Gitmo detainee cases to get military review

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The military will review the individual cases of the 595 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to determine whether they are legally held, the government said.

Officials described the move Wednesday as an attempt to prepare for expected challenges in civilian courts. It comes in response to a Supreme Court's decision last week that said those prisoners can go before a federal judge to seek their freedom.

The Bush administration believes the military reviews will provide them some grounding when the prisoners head to court: The government can claim it was providing due process in determining whether they are legally held as an enemy combatant.

If the review determines a prisoner is not lawfully held, he will be released to his home country,

according to officials with the Justice and Defense departments.

Within 10 days, the prisoners will be informed of their new rights and the Supreme Court ruling in a note written in their own language, according to a memo signed by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

A panel of three military officers with no previous connection to the prisoner will hear each prisoner's case. At least one officer will be a military lawyer.

The prisoner can choose to participate and present information in his defense, even calling witnesses, his case will be reviewed regardless of his participation.

He will be assigned a military officer, who is not a lawyer, to act as a personal representative, the officials said, and will have access to an interpreter.

Officials said they expected the review panels to begin meeting soon at Guantanamo. They will be overseen by Navy Secretary Gordon England.

China asks U.S. to curb arms sales

BY JOE McDONALD

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China pressed U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on Thursday to end sales of advanced weapons to Taiwan, a discordant note in her visit to discuss efforts to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program.

Washington is also looking for Chinese support on Iraq and a wide range of other issues.

Former President Jiang Zemin, who still holds a key military post, expressed Beijing's frustration at U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan, state television reported. It said he warned that the self-ruled island is the "most important and sensitive issue" in U.S.-Chinese relations.

"Chinese people are seriously concerned over and dissatisfied about U.S. sales of advanced weapons to Taiwan," the evening news paraphrased Jiang as telling Rice during a 60-minute meeting.

Jiang, chairman of the Communist Party commission that runs China's military, pressed Rice for Washington to abide by a U.S. commitment made in the 1980s to reduce and eventually end weapons sales to Taiwan, the report said.

Chinese leaders regularly raise the issue of U.S. support for Taiwan, with American officials in China saying Washington might not appreciate the depth of its opposition and could be encouraging activists who want to make the island's de facto independence permanent. Taiwan and the mainland have been ruled separately since 1949, but Beijing claims the island is part of its territory and has threatened to attack if Taiwan declares independence.

Washington has no formal relations with Taiwan but is its main arms supplier and military protector. Jiang told Rice that China "will continue to stick to the basic principle of peaceful unification, but we will never tolerate Taiwan independence," state television reported.

FACES 'N' PLACES

Knievel to jump military aircraft

Some people will do anything to promote a film. **Robbie Knievel** will hype the TNT original movie about his daredevil motorcycleist father, **Evel Knievel**, by attempting the first-ever jump over an array of military aircraft on the deck of the USS Intrepid in **New York Harbor**.

His jump will air live in the **States** on July 31 during the second night of the "Evel Knievel" movie premiere weekend, the cable channel said Tuesday.

The USS Intrepid, a former World War II aircraft carrier, is now the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

The movie stars **George Eads** ("C.S.I.") as **Evel Knievel**.

Knievel became famous in the 1970s for driving his motorcycle over everything from vehicles to alligators while wearing a red, white and blue jumpsuit. The 65-year-old stuntman retired from jumping more than 20 years ago.

Fast times for 'Patient Man'

Brad Cotter's life has been in the fast-forward mode since winning the "Nashville Star" reality TV show earlier this year.

His first major label CD, "Patient Man," was released Tuesday.

"It just goes to show the power of reality TV," said the 33-year-old singer, who was named winner of the USA Network show on May 1.

"Nashville Star" combines country music with reality television by placing contestants in a wired house on Music Row in Nashville, Tenn., as they compete for a recording contract with Sony Music Nashville.

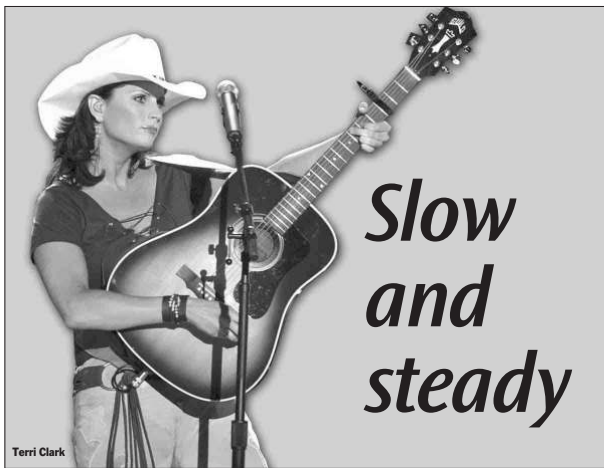
Cameras capture their daily interaction and weekly live performances, which are judged by USA Network viewers and industry professionals.

"I'd been knocking on doors and turned down for the last seven or eight years. Then comes 'Nashville Star' and things start happening so fast I can hardly keep up," Cotter told the **Alabama's Opelika-Auburn News** recently.

The CD features Cotter's single "I Meant To," which he co-wrote and performed during the finale of "Nashville Star."



Cotter



Terri Clark

After nine years of solid success, Terri Clark climbing the country charts faster than ever

By **WALTER TUNIS**

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Canadian-born singer **Terri Clark** sees a parallel trajectory in the patterns she and her idol **Reba McEntire** took to country stardom.

Specifically, Clark didn't lay permanent claim to the top of the country charts when her self-titled debut album was released in 1995.

But sturdy, career-defining hits came quickly with a string of rockish and rugged top 10 singles that included "When Boy Meets Girl" and "Better Things to Do."

She picked up her first ACM and Country Music Association awards nominations the following year as accomplished hits continued to pepper the charts. Among them: a vigorous cover of the late **Warren Zevon's** "Poor Poor Pitiful Me" — a '70s smash for another of Clark's idols, **Linda Ronstadt**.

But matching the commercial star power of such contemporaries as **Faith Hill**, **Martina McBride** and fellow Canadian **Shania Twain** has eluded Clark.

That's something she hopes to correct.

The recent "I Wanna Do It All" was a Top 5 hit, while "Girls Lie, Too" is roaring up the country charts this month faster than any of Clark's previous singles.

"You can look at a lot of artists that didn't hit their strides until 10 years into their career," she said by phone from Vancouver.

"It took Reba forever. She had five or six albums out on Mercury, switched to MCA and it still took an album or two there for her to really kick in."

"Some artists just build into a career and explode later on. I think it remains to be seen what will happen with me. But to be nine years into a recording career and now have the fastest-rising single of my career is unbelievable."

Regardless of how large Clark's star profile becomes, one major career goal will be achieved this month when she joins the **Grand Ole Opry**. An invitation was extended by **Steve Warner** when Clark played a televised Opry show two weekends ago.

"All they told me when I went onstage was to sing the first song, talk for about 30 seconds and then sing the second song," Clark said.

"Then when Steve walked out after the first one, all I could think of was, 'Hello. We're on TV here.' I freaked out, because I thought something had gone terribly wrong. Then I saw my mother there. It was quite a moment."

For Clark, membership in the Opry is as much a family triumph as a career milestone. Her grandparents were



ABACA PRESS/RET

Clark, above, hopes her career is mirroring that of her idol, late-blooming **Reba McEntire**, below.



NEC

country stars in Canada and regularly opened concerts for such Opry legends as **Little Jimmy Dickens**. Clark also views the honor as a belated tribute to her grandmother, **Betty Gauthier**, who died in January.

"I have a letter my grandmother wrote me when I was about 13. She told how hard this kind of career was going to be, about how I needed to stick it out and keep my chin up. So it's just wild for me now to be standing up on an Opry stage looking at **Little Jimmy Dickens** knowing my grandfather sat up drinking with him in 1954 in a bar in Canada."

Spider-Man scared of heights

Tobey Maguire admitted to a fear of heights as he brought summer blockbuster "Spider-Man 2" to **Berlin** for its European premiere.

"Standing on the edge of a building, looking over the edge — it's so horrible. I hate it," Maguire said Tuesday ahead of the screening. Still, he said, he had no problem swinging over streets on a crane or a rope.

In "Spider-Man 2," Maguire reprises his role as **Marvel Comics'** young Peter Parker, transformed by a mutant spider's bite into a superhero. **Alfred Molina** plays the cast as **Spider-Man's** new nemesis, **Doe Ock**, a villain encased in a tentacle suit.

Maguire said his own skintight suit wasn't exactly comfortable.

"It took 15 to 20 minutes to get it on," he said. "I don't mind when I'm sitting in it," he added, but moving around was less comfortable.

Olsens don't 'Got Milk'

Out of "sensitivity to their current situation," the "got milk" magazine ads featuring twins **Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen** have been retracted.

Mary-Kate recently entered a treatment program for what her publicist called a "health-related issue." People and US Weekly magazines have reported the 18-year-old actress has an eating disorder.

Ashley recently canceled a trip to **Australia** to promote the twins' new film, "New York Minute," to be with her sister.

Hugh Williams, a director with the Milk Processor Education Program in **New York**, told The Associated Press on Tuesday the ads were pulled out of "sensitivity to their current situation."



Mary-Kate Olsen

SATURDAY EVENING / JULY 10, 2004

MOVIES

SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P Headline News (CC)	ESPN News (CC)	My Wife and Kids Illegal Smile (CC)	Half & Half Spencer goes on a blind date. (CC)	The West Wing The Supreme President Bartlet must find a deceased Supreme Court justice's replacement. (CC)	Law & Order: Newswoman Detectives discover a murdered prosecutor had been living under an alias. (CC)	Headline News (CC)	Saturday Night Live (CC)				
7	AFN-AT Endurance (E) (CC)	Good Eats (CC)	Entertainment Tonight (CC)	WWWE Raw (CC)	My Wife and Kids Illegal Smile (CC)	Half & Half (CC)	The West Wing The Supreme (CC)	Law & Order: Newswoman (CC)				
8	NEWS Dateline NBC (CC)	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	CNN Saturday Morning (CC)				Today (CC)				
9	SPTS #1400 MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced (Live) (CC)	ESPN SportsCenter (CC)	ESPN SportsCenter (CC)	ESPN SportsCenter (CC)					ESPN News (CC)	ML Max (CC)		
10	SPEC Airline Tiam Eilat faces a nightmare. (CC)	Airline Drunk ejected from an airport (CC)	Trading Spaces Knowville: Fourth and fifth kitchen. (CC)	Everwood Epiphany gets the wrong idea when Madison says her roommate will be out of town. (CC)	Strong Medicine House Call: Andy gets an urgent call from NASA. (CC)			*** The Wings of the Dove (1997, Drama) Helena Bonham Carter, Linus Roache, Alison Elliott. A British couple battles a dying American heiress. (CC)				
11	TMC *** The Crossing Guard (1995, Drama) Jack Nicholson, David Morse, Anjelica Huston. A grief-stricken father takes a drunken driver's demise. (CC)	Antiques Roadshow Portfolio of historical American photographs, Jasper Cropsey painting. (CC)	History Detectives The origin of a famous letter submarine salvaged from a New Orleans lair. (CC)	Evening at Pops Keith Lockhart's 10th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Symphony. (CC)	*** Decades Wild (2002, Drama) Stephen Dorff, Brad Renfro, Fianzu Bala. A law firm becomes between 1950s Broadway street gangs. (CC)							
12	PBS Nova Volcano Above the Clouds (2000, Documentary) 200 miles south of the equator. (CC) (DVS)	Antiques Roadshow Portfolio of historical American photographs, Jasper Cropsey painting. (CC)	History Detectives The origin of a famous letter submarine salvaged from a New Orleans lair. (CC)	Evening at Pops Keith Lockhart's 10th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Symphony. (CC)	*** Decades Wild (2002, Drama) Stephen Dorff, Brad Renfro, Fianzu Bala. A law firm becomes between 1950s Broadway street gangs. (CC)							
13	SHOW *** How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, Adam Goldberg. A writer bets she can seduce a man and then drive him away. PG-13 (CC)	Antiques Roadshow Portfolio of historical American photographs, Jasper Cropsey painting. (CC)	History Detectives The origin of a famous letter submarine salvaged from a New Orleans lair. (CC)	Evening at Pops Keith Lockhart's 10th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Symphony. (CC)	*** Decades Wild (2002, Drama) Stephen Dorff, Brad Renfro, Fianzu Bala. A law firm becomes between 1950s Broadway street gangs. (CC)							
14	AE The First 48 Double Murder on Haskell: Back Alley Revenge (CC)	Antiques Roadshow Portfolio of historical American photographs, Jasper Cropsey painting. (CC)	History Detectives The origin of a famous letter submarine salvaged from a New Orleans lair. (CC)	Evening at Pops Keith Lockhart's 10th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Symphony. (CC)	*** Decades Wild (2002, Drama) Stephen Dorff, Brad Renfro, Fianzu Bala. A law firm becomes between 1950s Broadway street gangs. (CC)							
15	DISC To Be Announced	Antiques Roadshow Portfolio of historical American photographs, Jasper Cropsey painting. (CC)	History Detectives The origin of a famous letter submarine salvaged from a New Orleans lair. (CC)	Evening at Pops Keith Lockhart's 10th anniversary as conductor of the Boston Symphony. (CC)	*** Decades Wild (2002, Drama) Stephen Dorff, Brad Renfro, Fianzu Bala. A law firm becomes between 1950s Broadway street gangs. (CC)							
16	29 Magandang Gabi, Bayan (CC)	(6:55) Home Alone (CC)	(7:50) Floren (CC)	Kontobersyal (CC)	(1:15) News (CC)	(1:45) Magandang Tanghali, Bayan (CC)						
17	CNN Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	World Sport (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	Elizavisa (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	World Sport (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	World Sport (CC)	CNN World News (CC)	World Sport (CC)	Talk Asia (CC)
18	GOLF European PGA Golf Scottish Open (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)	Second Round: From Glasgow, Scotland. (CC)
19	TLC Trading Spaces Unguarded Outtakes. (CC)	While You Were Out 'Austin: Skyler's a brother makes over another's kitchen. (CC)	Clear Sweep 'Mother: Daughter's Disaster Family Outlets. (CC)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)	Trading Spaces Philadelphia Diner 'Saver' Only the trailer separates the two houses. (N)
20	TOON What's New Scooby-Doo? (CC)	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (CC)	Dexter's Laboratory Ego Trip (CC)	Sheep in the Big City (CC)	Bugs & Daffy Show (CC)	Scooby-Doo, Where Are You! (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts. (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts. (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts. (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts. (CC)	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts. (CC)	Detective Squad (CC)
21	ANPL Most Extreme 'Moms' Mothers of the animal kingdom. (CC)	Most Extreme Thinkers Beers, octopus. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)	B Movie Monsters Experts separate the science from the fiction. (CC)
22	COM (8:00) *** Joe Dirt (2001, Comedy) David Spade. A mule-headed janitor (played by a person with a mule head) goes to Africa. (CC)	Last Comic Standing The 10 comic mics are eliminated. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	Jeff 'Blower' Comedy Tour: 'The Movie' (2003, Comedy) Performances by Jeff 'Blower' Comedy, Bill Engvall and others. (CC)	
23	NGC-A Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)	Be the Creature 'Banded Mongoose' Mongoose adventures in Africa. (CC)
24	SPKE (4:00) *** Rock 'n' Roll (1990, Comedy) (CC)	*** WWE Velocity (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)	Ride With Funkmaster Flex (N) (CC)
25	FOX StarGate S-1 Promethium (CC)	The Invisible Man (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)	Cops Detectives in a couple robbed at gunpoint. (CC)
26	BET 106 & Park BET's Top 10 (CC)	BET.com Countdown (CC)	Wanna Thank My (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)	How I'm Living (CC)
27	COURT A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)	A Detective (CC)
28	STR-WL Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)	Baywatch (CC)
29	LIFE (8:00) *** Shattered (1998, Drama) (CC)	Miracle on the Mountain (1998, Drama) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)	Family Story (2000, Adventure) (CC)
30	ABC-AT (8:30) *** A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)	A Conch in (1988, Comedy) (CC)
31	HIST Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)	Guns & Bolts (CC)
32	STW-H (8:30) *** Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)	Life (1999, Comedy) (CC)
33	ADV I (8:30) Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)	Flight Over (CC)
34	MTV The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)	The Real World (CC)
35	NICK SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)

JAPAN TV

Afternoon
12:00 Japan Senior High School Baseball:
Kansai Prefecture vs. tournament -
Opening Ceremony (42)
1:00 Traditional Arts of Japan: Butsuri (2)
3:00 Japan Senior High School Baseball:
Kansai Prefecture vs. tournament (42)
3:50 Grand Sumo: The 7th Day (3)
4:00 J-League Soccer: Urawa Red Diamonds
vs. Yokohama F. Marinos (42)
4:00 J-League Soccer: Hiroshima G. (42)
Evening
6:00 Japan Pro Ball: Sanyo Sail-All Game -
8:00 J-League Soccer: Kyoto Purple Sanga
vs. Kawasaki Frontale (42)
9:00 Women's World Grand Prix Volleyball:
Japan vs. Poland (8)
10:00 News (1)
12:45 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
1:55 J-League Soccer: 11th Round, British
GP Preliminary (8)

2:05 Kirin Cup Soccer: 25th Anniversary Special
3:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
3:50 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)

JAPAN TV-B57

Morning
6:00 News from Around the World
6:30 News from Around the World
7:00 News from Around the World
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JOE GROSZELSKY, Electronic Editor
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:
Chris Carlson, Peter Phollock, Photo/Graphics
Brian Brown, Features Editor Sean Moore, Sports
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Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 23-17 Roppongi, 7-Chome, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032, Japan
FAX: DSN 229-3132; civ. (+81) (03) 3408-8936
E-MAIL: Readers Forum: letters@stripes.com
Advertising: ad@stripes.com
Marketing: marketing@stripes.com
Circulation: circulation@stripes.com
CENTRAL: CEN 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington
DC 20045-1301; Phone DSN 723-765-0900 or civ.
723-765-1000; fax (+1) (202) 763-0900
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Scott Marzanda, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350,
Washington, DC 20045-1301; Phone DSN 312-
723-0945 or civ. (+1) (202) 763-0945
E-mail: marzanda@stripes.com
CIRCULATION: Joe Ugoian, Send comments to: ombudsman,
Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington,
DC 20045-1301; Phone civilian (+1) (401) 344-6032; fax
(+1) (401) 344-8095; e-mail: ombudsman@stripes.com

How to call us

GENERAL MANAGER: Robb Grontz, DSN 239-3121; civ.
(+81) (3) 3404-8428
READERS' FORUM: DSN 229-3136; civ. (+81) (3)
3404-8423; e-mail: letters@stripes.com
SPORTS: Dave Omeier, DSN 645-7433; civ. (+81) (88)
893-2702; e-mail: sports@stripes.com
For business, advertising and circulation numbers,
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News Bureaus

JAPANESE BUREAU: Sid Acker, Unit 45002, APO AP
96337-5002; DSN 229-3357; civ. (03) 3404-8936; e-mail
sid@stripes.com
MIAMI: Jennifer H. Swan, Tel. DSN 225-2550; civ. (0176)
225-2547; e-mail: jhswan@stripes.com
SANDEWICH: Greg Tyler, PSC 876, Box 1126, APO
FPO 96342, Tel. DSN 229-3136; civ. (+81) (3) 3404-8428
TAGS: Jennifer H. Swan, Tel. DSN 229-3136; civ. (+81) (3)
3404-8428; fax DSN 229-3271
YOKOSUKA: Patrick Dickson, Tel. DSN 229-3136; civ. (+81)
3404-8428; fax DSN 241-2874 or civ. (+81) (3) 3401-8926
OKINAWA: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiomi Sumida
and Mark Nantz, Camp Foster, Tel. DSN 96374, DSN
645-3807 or civ. (+81) (98) 893-2702; fax DSN
645-9155; e-mail: okinawa@stripes.com

Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Gordon, Unit 15334, APO
96326-0425; Tel. DSN 721-7132 or civ. (+82) (2)
2270-1732; e-mail: gordon@stripes.com
Oran Air Base: Franklin Fisher, Unit 15334, APO AP 96278, Tel.
DSN 748-2751 or civ. (+82) (3) 661-8459; fax DSN
783-1032; e-mail: fisher@stripes.com
Seoul: Jeremy Kirk, Chon Sang-won and Jennifer Rickner, Unit
15334, APO AP 96205-0425; Tel. DSN 721-7132; civ. (+82)
or 721-7134; fax (+82) (2) 2270-1732/7134; fax DSN
721-7133; e-mail: koreanbureau@stripes.com
TAGS: Unit 15334, APO AP 96205-0425; Tel. DSN 721-7132;
721-7132 or 721-7134; fax (+82) (2) 2270-1732/7134;
fax DSN 721-7133; e-mail: koreanbureau@stripes.com
WASHINGTON DC
Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301; Tel. (+1) (202) 763-0859;
e-mail: dickson@stripes.com
Sandra Jeter and Lisa Hines, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301; Tel. (+1) (703) 695-4792;
fax (+1) (703) 695-6366; e-mail: jeter@stripes.com, lburgess@stripes.com

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Less Moore, more big picture

It is nice to see Michael Moore making money off the Sept. 11 tragedy. I guess he didn't make enough off the Columbine mas-
sacre. It was sad to read that "Fahrenheit
9/11" was the top grossing film when it de-
buted. Hopefully people are seeing it out of
curiosity and not for answers to a heinous
crime that knocked us off guard in 2001.

The movie, of course, offers no solution to
the problem and is pure and simple an ex-
ploitation of a tragedy in hopes of promoting
personal political beliefs. That the Democrats
are supporting this is no surprise; they would
wear turbans on their heads until elec-
tion time if they thought they would get a
few more votes out of hand in 2001.

Our freedoms are great, and Mr. Moore has
the full right to exercise his freedom of
speech as he sees necessary to make a liv-
ing. In the big picture, though, this hurts the
people over here working on a solution to a
problem. If these people who have persua-
sive powers spent half the time helping the
effort that they do downing it, the war would
be over. Iraq would have been flooded with
support from all over the world and the spe-
cial situation would have been overwhelm-
ing enough that the rebels would have no op-
tion but to surrender.

We used more than 400,000 U.S. troops to
occupy Germany after World War II and it
was necessary; now we have a little more
than one-quarter of that support in Iraq. But
I guess we cannot ask that much out of the
Hollywood generation of today like the ones
who dropped their careers to fight for
freedom during WWII. Instead of the
Jimmy Stewarts of yesterday we have the
Michael Moores of today.

What is needed is some back-home sup-
port that could carry overseas to our
over-the-hill, close-minded, self-serving
movie propaganda and easy-selling con-
spiracy theories, support our leaders — they
need to make difficult decisions that have
lasting consequences no one can foresee.
The American public is very vulnerable and
trusting of anybody right now; manipulation
against ourselves is what this movie is doing.
Our country is already politically
split in half and never before.

A military slogan that carries a lot of truth to
it is "Lead, follow, or get out of the way."
Right now we are on the road to a more sta-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on
editorials and columns that are published in the
newspaper, and values letters on topics of impor-
tance in the lives of our readers. All letters must
be signed, and must include the writer's address
or base and telephone number. We reserve the
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ble Iraq and an upward turn of economic
times for the United States and the last
thing we need is someone in the middle of
the road looking for a handout.

Senior Airman Brian Link
Camp Bucca, Iraq

Sponse sponsorship dicey

I met and fell in love with my wife in the
spring of 2002. She is German. We dated for
about a year and decided we were going to
get married.

Early in 2003 I found out I was going to be
deployed with the 1st Armored Division. I
decided to get married as soon as possible.
Once we were married, I started to do the
paperwork for command sponsorship. We
took it through the proper channels and it
was turned down. Apparently I did not have
enough time left on my tour. It was April
2003 and I wasn't due to get out until June
2004. I don't understand how I did not have
enough time.

So I was deployed at the end of April with
no command sponsorship. No big deal. Then
news came that the U.S. Army Europe's
commanding general decided to cut

through the red tape, suspend the rules and
fix problems that his soldiers had. I was
happy to hear this, because now I could get
my wife command-sponsored. I submitted
my request to rear deployment to get her
put to work. They told my wife it would be
no problem to get it.

However, now they say we cannot get it.
What's worse? What happened to getting
through the red tape and suspending the
rules? I have been deployed for almost 15
months. I have more than met the year I
was supposed to rear deployment to get get-
ting out until Nov. 15. I feel like I have been
lied to. I couldn't care enough about getting
out of living allowance at the married rate or
having the Army pay for a plane ticket for
my wife to go home with me. What I want is
the ability to ship my goods home as a mar-
ried couple. They told me I would only be
able to ship so much home as a single sol-
dier. But I'm married. What gives?

Cpl. John Burgeson
Baghdad

In defense of military widows

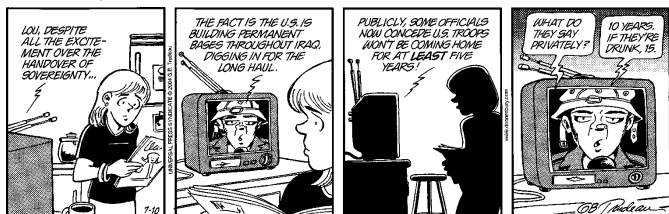
There exists an injustice toward our mili-
tary widows that this great country of ours
has let continue for God knows how long
and it is now time to correct what is an in-
sult to those whose husbands have served,
fought and died for the freedoms we pos-
sess.

In time, after her husband passes away,
many widows, some with children, remarry
and are not aware of the fact that if they
marry a nonmilitary man they will lose ben-
efits that are rightfully theirs, benefits re-
ceived from their previous husband's mili-
tary service. Admission to military bases for
pharmaceutical supplies, purchases at the
commissaries, post and base exchanges
along with the privilege, at little or no cost,
of being buried in a military cemetery will
no longer be available to them. Is this truly
"the American way"? No, it is not. Military
widows should not be treated in this man-
ner. Many of them followed their husbands
from base to base and endured the hand-
ships along the way. A military man can
marry, lose his wife through divorce or
death, and in each future marriage his wife
has all benefits available. It is time for a
change.

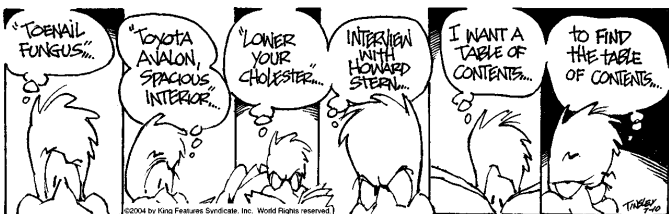
John H. Humiston
Loma Linda, Calif.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



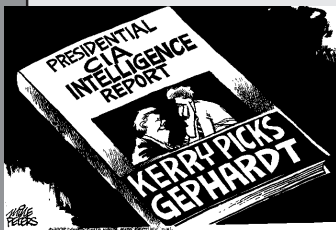
Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



BIRTHDAY GIFTS



Official assault

MA NORTHAMPTON — Northampton's superintendent of schools has been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon in what police called a domestic dispute.

Police said the weapon involved was a semiautomatic handgun.

Superintendent Michael A. Cosgriff was released on his own recognizance after pleading innocent at his arraignment in Northampton District Court.

Southampton Police said they were called to Cosgriff's home by a woman. Cosgriff, who had left the home, was arrested two hours later. The identity of the woman was not released.

Rabies rampage

ME LEWISTON — A man who went three rounds with a rampaging groundhog in his backyard said he probably will never know for sure whether the animal had rabies.

The groundhog scurried away after a police officer called to the scene fired a single shot. Nelson said he has not seen the animal since then, and he hopes he never sees it again.

Nelson said rabies is the only thing he can think of that would make a groundhog behave that way.

Since the animal didn't bite or scratch him, there's no need to get rabies shots, Nelson said.

The tenacious animal tried to attack his two poodles, which were tied to a fence, and then charged at him after being shoed away.

Fireworks fiasco

TX HOUSTON — Two teenagers were injured in an explosion when they used a sledgehammer to extract gunpowder from shotgun shells and bullets, police said.

Authorities were investigating whether the 16-year-old boys were trying to make homemade fireworks the night of July 4.

The teens were taken to Memorial Hermann Hospital with first-, second- and third-degree burns, Harris County Fire Marshal Mike Montgomery said. The hospital did not release any information about the victims.

Police said the teens were grinding powder from the shells and bullets with a hammer, setting off the blast in a Harris County home.

Investigators seized bullets, a homemade discharging device and a videotape the youths made to document their efforts, police said.

7-year-old sharpshooter

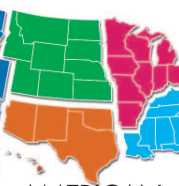
VA RICHMOND — Seven-year-old Kayla Williamson was angry when she found a big black snake stealing eggs from the family's hen house.

So she shot and killed it.

It wasn't the first time Kayla showed skill with a gun. Last year, she killed a deer from 50 yards with one shot.

"She won't back up on anything," said her father, Frankie Williamson.

Kayla and her father spotted the nonvenomous snake when they



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

went to gather eggs June 12 at their home in rural Nettoway County about 50 miles southwest of Richmond.

Kayla sells the eggs and her father said the snake "was full of eggs."

"I was mad," Kayla said.

Crash course on safety

VT RUTLAND — A teenager whose reckless driving was blamed for the death of a motorcyclist two years ago has avoided jail, but will have to do presentations in high schools on dangerous driving.

Teahler Munzberg, 19, of Brandon, was sentenced in Vermont District Court to three to seven years in jail, all suspended on probation. She was also ordered to perform 500 hours of community service, including a dozen presentations in Rutland County high schools talking about the importance of driving safely.

Munzberg had pleaded no contest earlier this year to a felony charge of grossly negligent operation with death resulting. She was accused of rounding a curve too fast on Route 73 in Sudbury.

Taylor Cook, 23, of Middlebury, was killed in the crash in July 2002. The charge carried a maximum sentence of 15 years in jail.

"I'm terribly sorry that my actions have caused the death of Tay-

lor Cook," Munzberg said in court Thursday, breaking down in tears. "I just feel so horrible. I wish I could take it back, but I just can't."

Slow mail

NH LEBANON — A shortage of mail carriers at the Lebanon Post Office left some mail sitting on shelves.

The delays, which left some city residents without mail last week, are not new to Lebanon residents, some of whom have complained to regional U.S. Postal Service officials for years.

Letter carriers decided not to work more than the 60 hours a week specified in their contract. Plus a shortage of carriers, vacations, injuries and illnesses left the Lebanon Post Office with too few people to deliver the mail, union and Postal Service officials said.

Lebanon is supposed to have 26 full-time carriers but has only 22, said George Navedo, a letter carrier and vice president of the carriers' union.

Art recovered

NY NEW YORK — Two paintings stolen from an Italian castle in the 1990s were seized by federal authorities after they learned that Christie's was putting the work on the auction block.

The paintings by 18th-century neoclassical artist Andrea Appiani were to be returned to a museum at Brancaccio Castle in San Gregorio da Sassola, Italy, federal prosecutors in Manhattan said. No arrests were made.

The museum reported the paintings — "Venus and Adonis" and "Hercules and Omphale" — stolen in 1999. Italian authorities believe the theft occurred during renovations at the castle between 1994 and 1999.

Together, the works were expected to bring between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

Clock-wise

MA GARDNER — Library director Gail Landy learned that when it comes to Roman numerals on clocks, IIII equals IV.

Construction manager Tom Kondel, head of the Levi Heywood Memorial Library project, came to her recently and said, "Gail, we've got a problem with the clock," referring to the large clock installed over the west door of the new library building.

As Kondel said, the number four on the clock was IIII instead of the expected IV. Landy decided it wouldn't do to have what she called "an illiterate" clock. "We called up the clock manufacturer and they said, 'That's the way we do clocks,'" she told the *Telegram & Gazette* of Worcester in an interview published Friday.

When she looked at her watch, which had Roman numerals, she discovered that it too used IIII for the number four.

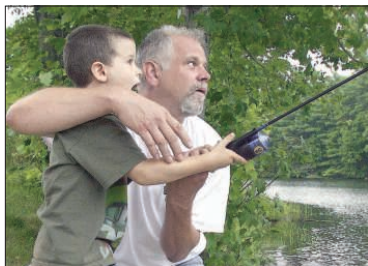
"People look at clocks, and they see what they expect to see," she said.

Doing a little research, Landy and Kondel found that most clocks use IIII. But the reason is uncertain.



Dropping in

A car sits in the roof of Scott Penney's home in Marlborough, Mass., after it was driven off an elevated parking lot and crashed into his roof, which is about the same level as the lot. The driver, Shirley Elder, in her 70s, hit the gas pedal thinking it was the brake.



First cast

Alan Drogue, left, teaches his son Benjamin, 4, how to cast a line with his new rod and reel at Robin Hood Pond in Keene, N.H.



Steering straight

Pro rodeo steer wrestler John Rodriguez, of Helotes, Texas, competes during the final performance of the Prescott Frontier Days World's Oldest Rodeo in Prescott, Ariz.



A Beefeater welcome

A Beefeater, or tower guard, greets visitors to the third floor of the Frazier Historical Arms Museum in Louisville, Ky. The stuffed figure stands before a display of 17th-century armor, pikeman's pot helmets and breast and back plates.



Flash from the past
day in Lyme, Conn.

A Colonial re-enactor Parker Lord fires his replica French Tulle musket at the end of the 38th annual Hamburg Cove Independence Day parade Mon-



For our next trick ...
shallow off Virginia Key in Miami.

Kids enjoy a day at the beach as they chase each other through the shallow off Virginia Key in Miami.



Dragged out

Christianburg Cuties' Duane "Tiffany" Booden, left, is tagged out by St. Paris Sweeties third baseman Abby "Adam" Nitchman in Christianburg, Ohio. The softball game, played in drag, pitted two area fire departments.



Avoiding rush hour

Two Amish girls walk their pony along a country road in Parkman, Ohio.

Dole in lecturer talks

AK LITTLE ROCK — Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole is in talks with the dean of the Clinton School of Public Service to become the school's inaugural lecturer. David Pryor, a former U.S. senator, said the Kansas Republican and Bill Clinton's former opponent in the 1996 presidential race would be the perfect person to start the school's nonpartisan program. Pryor said the speech will likely be scheduled Sept. 18.

Map fakery

AZ PHOENIX — Maricopa County was asked to stop distributing maps with faked geographic features. The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names urged the county's transportation department to stop giving out the maps.

Cartographers often insert fake names for copyright protection, a department spokesman said. Department employees have invented and dubbed fake geographic features in sparsely populated areas for years.

Mail stabbing

MN BLOOMINGTON — A dispute over a parking space at the Mall of America led to a stabbing Monday evening that sent one man to the hospital with four or five puncture wounds in his arm and torso, police said.

The victim, age 26, was not named, nor were the alleged perpetrators, a 59-year-old man and a 53-year-old woman. Police said the victim is expected to survive.

Mayor steps down

OH NEW RIEGEL — The man who won this village's mayoral post by a coin toss has stepped down.

Mayor Jim Snyder said he was putting in too many hours in his full-time job to continue as the part-time mayor. He defeated former Mayor Ron Rumschlag by the flip of a coin in November used to break a tie vote in the general election.

Councilman Harold Courtney has taken over as mayor.

Strip search hoax

MA BOSTON — Police have identified a Florida man suspected of making hoax phone calls to fast food restaurants in Massachusetts and around the country and encouraging management to strip search employees and in at least one case, a customer.

An investigation that involved law enforcement agencies from multiple states, as well as security personnel for AT&T and Wal-Mart, led to David R. Stewart, 38, of Fountain, Fla., said Lt. Raymond Rogers of the West Bridgewater police.

Stewart was arrested at his home on a fugitive from justice warrant from Mount Washington, Ky. Rogers said, where the suspect allegedly made a hoax call to a local McDonald's.

Moving on the monorail

WA SEATTLE — The city has moved a step closer to building a new monorail system and possibly tearing down the

42-year-old monorail in this traffic-congested city.

The City Council on Tuesday approved an agreement with the Seattle Monorail Project for the use of streets along the planned Green Line, which would extend through downtown.

As part of the deal, the council must study whether the \$1.7 billion expansion is economically feasible.

The project calls for 14 miles of elevated track through the heart of the city, with no link to the mile-long monorail that has glided over city streets since the 1962 World's Fair. That monorail runs between the Space Needle and downtown and is as much a tourist attraction as mass transit.

Immigrant cab drivers

NY NEW YORK — More than eight out of 10 city cab drivers are immigrants, according to an analysis of U.S. Census figures in a report by a taxi industry consultant.

Census figures show 84 percent of yellow cab and limo drivers are foreign-born, up from 64 percent in 1990 and 38 percent in 1980, according to the study, released by consultant Bruce Schaller.

The largest percentage of drivers identified in the 2000 Census, 23 percent, were from the West Indies, and 20 percent were from South Asia, which includes Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, the study said.

The Census figures account for the 39,735 people who identify themselves as active drivers of yellow cabs, limos and taxis in New York City.

Busted in the back

OR JOSEPH — Dannie Eaves got busted for hauling some busts.

Eaves, an employee at Joseph Bronze in Joseph, Ore., had six busts in his pickup truck when several motorists mistook the Nebraska-bound sculptures for dead bodies and called the police.

Eaves was asked to stop to the back of the truck.

The officers found a life-sized sculpture of a firefighter in the truck bed. Three shoulder-sized busts of former governors were in the truck's cab, a fourth was placed on the floor boards and a fifth was with the firefighter sculpture.

"I explained to him they were statues," Eaves said. "We all had a good laugh. I bet they were really relieved."

Michigan lake monster

MI SALINE — You don't have to travel all the way to Scotland to see a monster in a lake.

A mechanical creature with a long neck dubbed "Millie" will surface in Mill Pond during the annual Saline Celtic Festival as a nod to Scotland's Loch Ness monster.

Millie is the creation of mechanical designer Jim Peters, who is a volunteer for the festival.

Peters' wood-and-steel reptile is 24 feet long when in a low position and 6 feet tall in its upright position. Millie is composed of a neck and head piece, a midhump and a tail that can be moved with a rope connected to pulleys.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Mercury passes Mars, bringing a wave of agitation with it. The odds of getting into a verbal sparring match are increased, but that's not the worst of it, since these things tend to escalate. Watch your words! The more positive side of this transit is that many have the passion to say what needs to be said and to initiate social change.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 10). This year starts off with huge, remarkable success on the work front. Your personal life sparks with new romantic intrigue. Couples throw parties together. Your social circle enlarges, especially in September. Education is important this fall — your livelihood is enhanced when you make the effort. Lucky love connections are Capricorn and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Tenacity is the name of the game. You might feel like a broken record repeating the same action, but that's what it takes. Couples: Experts agree that the essential component of a successful marriage is communi-

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Your basic needs are met, but happiness comes from expecting more. Paternal issues are part of the fabric today, and you may find yourself repeating an interwoven pattern because of deep-rooted feelings about your father.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Stay productive, even if you don't leave the house. Don't do it because you should but because being productive is what will make your heart feel full. Water-sign influences turn up supernatural powers of intuition.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your quirky habits are featured — an outside observer might declare that you've grown more eccentric. Pay no attention to what the "normal" people are doing. An encounter with an Aquarius starts something interesting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Bonds are strengthened with a little more effort on your part. You're thinking:

Why not on theirs? Why do I always have to be the one to make an effort? In this case, you're stronger. If you lead by action, you'll like what happens next.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Your wheels are turning in the direction of problem-solving, sharing ideas and promoting tolerance in your corner of the world. Make sure you've got plenty of variety in your schedule and in the company you keep.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

The perfectionist in you wants to scream (or at least take on a louder voice than what's appropriate!) Don't let the critic shut you down. Pursue your talent without looking back.

Act as if your enthusiasm is high, and it will return.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Just when you think you're busy, five more tasks are added to the load. In the time it takes to ask for help or give instructions, you may as well have done it alone, so knuckle down and handle it. You'll be well compensated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You're worried about whether you've got enough willpower to change a habit of yours, but self-discipline is not the issue. When your perception changes, it's easy to change your habit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Personal development is simple: If you don't like what you're giving, change what you're giving. Tonight, your ears may be burning! Your confidence rockets when you hear what people think of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You know what's best for the people in your care, so speak up. Be smart — don't let go until you've done everything you can to help. You needn't concern yourself with keeping up appearances. Just be real.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You'll be the exception to the rule today, something you're used to by now. It's not that you set out to be special, but your unique circumstances lead you against the current. Embrace your oddball tendencies.

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Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



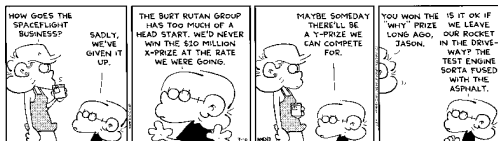
Better or Worse



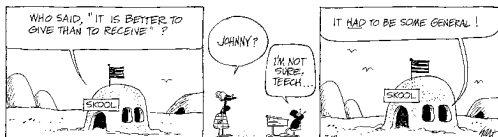
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



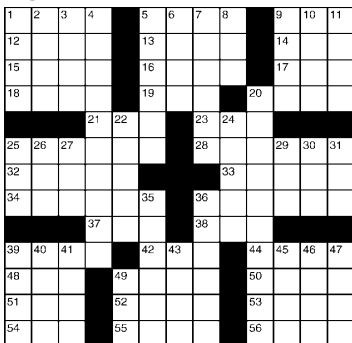
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Stylish
- 5 Paradise
- 9 Mania
- 12 100 Turkish
- 13 Tottenberg of NPR
- 14 Dander
- 15 Revlon rival
- 16 Whirlpool
- 17 Last letter
- 18 Make like new
- 19 Baby sturgeon?
- 20 Despot
- 21 Work unit
- 23 Lawyers' org.
- 25 Comet
- 26 discover
- 28 Snatch
- 30 scratch
- 32 Unimprovable
- 33 Put on a pedestal

Down

- 1 Untalkative
- 2 Scene of great activity
- 3 Unyielding
- 4 Liberate prop
- 5 Virm
- 6 "White Flag" singer
- 7 Ingratiate
- 8 Aye undoer
- 9 Effervescence
- 10 Neighborhood alternative
- 11 One startled by headlights
- 20 Child's favorite place?
- 22 Pass on
- 24 Spoke like Dolly
- 25 Spud's buds
- 26 Toper's comment
- 27 Commotion
- 28 Moon vehicle
- 29 Brillo rival
- 30 Raw rock
- 31 Mal de ...
- 35 Be unsteady
- 36 Reacted in horror
- 39 Take suddenly
- 40 Atmosphere
- 41 Groucho-esque look
- 43 Stereo
- 45 Do what you're told
- 46 "... the poor dog had —"
- 47 The Bee —
- 49 Rep.

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-10

CRYPTOQUIP

GY VA VAFSW XGSM HNSN
 KU EVAM UA V MUUSPAUX.
 G FQNCCK GK HUQEM YEW

UYU KRN RVAMEN.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A PERSON GETS
 HEAVY FROM HAVING TOO MUCH SWEET WINE,
 COULD YOU CALL HIM PORTLY?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals F

Got Jitters? Go get counseling

Dear Abby: I am 24. My fiancé is 28. We have been together for five years and are engaged to be married in August. I love him, but I wonder if I love him enough to marry him. The closer we get to our wedding, the more I want to be free.

I want to go out, have fun and not feel so serious about everything. He makes things so much more complicated than they have to be. I can't even suggest a place to go for dinner without him having to think it over.

I feel guilty because I feel less attracted to him all the time. Should I marry him?

—Claustrophobic
in San Francisco

Dear Claustrophobic: You may be experiencing pre-wedding jitters, but one thing is certain: You shouldn't say "I do" unless you mean it with all your heart. You and your fiancé could benefit from premarital counseling. It is something that many churches

offer and can be valuable for any couple considering lifetime commitment. Only if you can accept your fiancé the way he is should you go through with the marriage.

Dear Abby: I'm embarrassed

Dear Abby



to admit this, but my husband doesn't brush his teeth every day. To make matters worse, he wears upper dentures, which he soaks and cleans only about once a week. He hasn't been to a dentist in the 13 years we've been married, and I suspect he hadn't been for some time before that.

I have talked to him about how this limits my desire to kiss him. Smelling his breath from 3 feet away is something I can't ignore. I have tried reasoning with him that dental health is part of a total health program, but he also hasn't been seen by a doctor in the time we've been married — despite a family history of heart

problems, prostate cancer and diabetes. He appears to be in good health, but I worry about him.

When I tell him how his lax dental hygiene affects my physical desire, he listens intently, says he understands — and then nothing changes. I love him. We have a good marriage, but he simply won't budge. Please give me some advice. Perhaps if he sees this in the paper he'll recognize himself.

—Longing For a Sweet-Smelling Kiss in Georgia

Dear Longing: Frankly, I don't know how you have stood it this long. Insist on "clearing the air" with a marriage counselor.

Ask for a referral to a health-care provider who is familiar with medical and dental phobias. The alternative is to spend the rest of your life wearing a cloth napkin over your nose when your husband feels amorous.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SHOAC

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COINT

FRYTAC

KEYRAB

Ans: A

Yesterday's

Family Circus

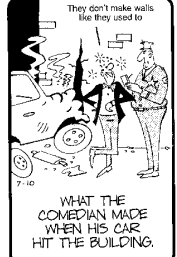
7-10

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What Dad found when the family went for a drive — AHEAD

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington

The 850,000 rns. have been DISCONTINUED.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Helpful tips that will open things up

Dear Annie: You

were right when you told "Al in the Midwest" that octogenarians aren't the only ones having trouble opening pull-tab lids. My 55-year-old daughter taught me to turn the cans upside down and use a regular can opener. It works unless the can has a rounded bottom.

As for items sealed in plastic-and-cardboard packaging, the solution to opening them is a Widget, an inexpensive scraper and cutter manufactured by the Gillette Company.

—Lee in the East

Dear Lee: We were swamped with replies from readers eager to help "Al" open things. Several readers recommended specific brand-name products, and although we are happy to mention them, we have no idea if they work or not, so caveat emptor (buyer beware). Here's more:

Annie's Mailbox



From Sun City, Ariz.: Put the can on

the counter with the tab toward you. Pry up the tab with a spoon, then insert one of the handles of a metal garlic-crusher and let the end rest against the edge on the other side. Hold the can firmly on the counter and then pull up the lid.

Southwest: Tell "Al" to visit a kitchen supply store. It likely has several types of pull-tab openers for sale like the kind airline flight attendants use.

Illinois: "Al" should look in the pet food section of his local supermarket. I was trying to save my fingernails when I found a plastic utensil for opening pet food cans for my cat.

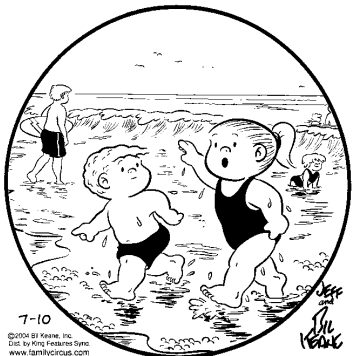
Binghamton, N.Y.: To

open a tab can, look through your

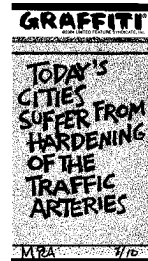
kitchen utensil drawer and find a long handle that will go through the hole in the tab and use this as a lever. To open a pickle or jelly jar, poke a tiny hole in the tin cover, carefully, with a pointed knife or an ice pick. When it "pops," you're home free. I have no solutions for medicine capsules in plastic packaging.

South Carolina: There is a \$3.99 item on the market that allows one to hook onto a pull tab and open the can easily. Check the Web site dynamic-living.com and click on "Arthritis." For jar lids, try Dycem(R) matting, available at most occupational therapy departments and restaurant supply stores. An X-ACTO(R) knife is good for opening plastic-sealed medication.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate



"I don't like oceans. There aren't any sides to hang onto."

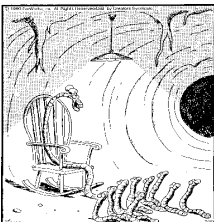


Dennis the Menace



"MY GRANDPA SAYS YOU ARE ONE HOT DESH. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?"

The Far Side



"That story again? ... Well, one stormy night, when the whole family was asleep, your grandfather quietly rose from his bed, took an ax, and made all you little grandkids."

Non Sequitur



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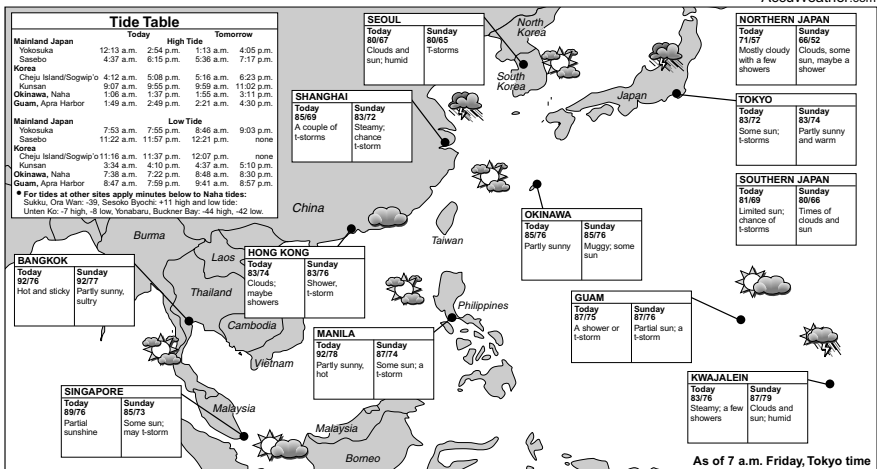
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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Monday: Rain, high 81, low 70.
Tuesday: Thundershowers, high 83, low 69.

KADENA
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 80, low 70.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 77.

SEOUL
Monday: Thundershowers, high 80, low 75.
Tuesday: Rain, high 78, low 62.

MANILA
Monday: Showers, high 88, low 75.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 75.

HAGATNA
Monday: Thundershowers, high 87, low 77.
Tuesday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 78.

Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	92/67	Los Angeles	76/72
Amarillo	96/67	Little Rock	93/64
Anchorage	78/58	Louisville	84/70
Asheville	85/63	Miami	91/79
Baltimore	90/66	Milwaukee	71/57
Birmingham	88/72	Nashville	89/72
Bismark	83/61	New York	88/70
Boise	81/55	Omaha	82/71
Boston	76/64	Orlando	94/72
Brownsville	96/77	Philadelphia	91/70
Buffalo	72/58	Phoenix	107/84
Burlington	78/59	Pittsburgh	76/58
Charleston, SC	92/77	Portland, OR	73/54
Charlotte	91/68	Portland, ME	69/61
Cleveland	74/59	Salt Lake City	87/64
Columbus, OH	78/62	St. Louis	83/74
Duluth	69/51	San Antonio	94/76
El Paso	101/73	San Diego	71/64
Hartford	84/63	San Juan	89/76
Helena	75/48	Tampa	92/78
Indianapolis	79/65	Tulsa	99/77
Jacksonville	92/72	Washington	91/70
Kansas City	90/73	Wichita	97/74

Saturday, July 10



U.S. Extended Forecast

Showers and thundershowers will dive through the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley on Saturday. Farther east, a pleasant day is expected with some sunshine and comfortable humidity levels. Northern New England may have a few showers. Meanwhile, thundershowers will rumble across the Gulf Coast. Thundershowers will also erupt over the Plains and Rockies. Some of the storms in the central Plains may be severe with large hail and even tornadoes. In the Northwest, an upper-level disturbance will spin onshore and provide a cloudy day along the immediate coastline. More thundershowers are possible Sunday over the Ohio Valley and parts of the Southeast. The West Coast will remain rather tranquil.

Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	92/76	Iwakuni	84/71
Beijing	89/71	Kadena AB	85/76
Camp Casey	80/65	Kunsan AB	80/69
Christchurch	45/28	Kwajalein	83/76
Diego Garcia	83/75	Manila	92/78
Hagatna	83/75	Masawa AB	79/63
Hanoi	89/76	Osan	85/71
Hong Kong	87/74	Perth	60/45
Honolulu	88/76	Pusan	79/69
		Tokyo	83/72

Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/78	Budapest	78/52	Kabul	100/65	Nairobi	75/49
Athens	96/79	Buenos Aires	55/33	Kiev	8/86	New Delhi	101/86
Auckland	50/42	Cairo	104/71	Kuwait	113/80	Oslo	64/46
Baghdad	111/74	Caracas	93/73	London	64/50	Paris	66/48
Barbados	88/72	Cape Town	68/48	Madrid	84/57	Rio de Janeiro	74/80
Barcelona	70/56	Geneva	66/48	Mexico City	73/54	Rome	81/61
Berlin	63/46	Istanbul	86/71	Montreal	79/65	St. Petersburg	75/55
Bermuda	86/75	Jerusalem	86/64	Mogadishu	62/71	Stockholm	68/51
Brussels	57/39	Johannesburg	61/37	Moscow	78/59	Warsaw	64/46



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SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea Standard time. Guam is one hour ahead. San Francisco and Hong Kong have no time difference. Schedule subject to change without notice.

Television

AFN-Pacific/AFN-Korea

SAT, July 10, at 10 a.m. - Pro boxing: Ebo Elder vs. Fernando Tere, light-welterweight. **SUN, July 11, at 8 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Texas vs. Boston.

AFN-Atlantic

SAT, July 11, at 10 a.m. - Pro baseball: Chicago Cubs vs. St. Louis. **SUN, July 11, at 8 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Houston vs. Los Angeles. **SUN, July 11, at 8 p.m.** - Pro baseball: Detroit vs. Minnesota.

AFN-Sports

SAT, July 10, at 1 a.m. - Cycling: Tour de France, sixth stage. **SAT, July 10, at 3 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Atlanta vs. Philadelphia. **SAT, July 10, at 11 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Houston vs. Los Angeles. **SUN, July 11, at 4 p.m.** - Pro baseball: N.Y. Mets vs. Florida. **SUN, July 11, at 8 p.m.** - Pro baseball: Cincinnati vs. Milwaukee. **SUN, July 11, at 11 a.m.** - Swimming: U.S. Olympic trials.

SUN, July 11, at 3 a.m. - Auto racing: NASCAR Busch Grand National Tourist 300. **SUN, July 11, at 5:30 a.m.** - Pro soccer: San Jose vs. New York-New Jersey (joined in France, seventh stage).

SUN, July 11, at 8 a.m. - Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Trucks Built Ford Tough 225. **SUN, July 11, at 1 p.m.** - Women's pro basketball: Seattle vs. Detroit. **SUN, July 11, at 4 p.m.** - Pro baseball: Oakland vs. Cleveland. **SUN, July 11, at 9 p.m.** - Cycling: Tour de France, seventh stage.

Radio

Korea - AFN Thunder-AM

SAT, July 10, at 8 a.m. - Pro baseball: Tampa Bay vs. N.Y. Yankees. **SAT, July 10, at 11 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Colorado vs. San Diego. **SUN, July 11, at 2 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Chicago Cubs vs. St. Louis. **SUN, July 11, at 5 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Houston vs. Los Angeles. **SUN, July 11, at 8 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Pittsburgh vs. Montreal.

Okinawa - AFN Surf 648-AM

SAT, July 10, at 8 a.m. - Pro baseball: Tampa Bay vs. N.Y. Yankees. **SAT, July 10, at 11 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Colorado vs. San Diego. **SUN, July 11, at 2 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Chicago Cubs vs. St. Louis. **SUN, July 11, at 5 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Houston vs. Los Angeles. **SUN, July 11, at 8 a.m.** - Pro baseball: Pittsburgh vs. Montreal.

Soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference
W 1 Pts GF GA
D.C. United 5 5 20 22
New England 5 5 19 21
Chicago 5 5 18 16
Columbus 5 5 17 23
New York 3 8 12 23

Western Conference
W 1 Pts GF GA
Los Angeles 7 4 25 20
Kansas City 7 4 23 23
Dallas 7 4 21 17
San Jose 5 5 19 21
Seattle 5 5 17 23

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Wednesday's game
Dallas, 2 a.m. vs. San Jose
Thursday's games
San Jose at Montreal
Columbus at Dallas
Dallas at Kansas City
Colorado at Los Angeles

Sunday's game
New England at Chicago
Wednesday, July 14
Chicago at New England
Los Angeles at Colorado

Saturday, July 17
New England at Columbus
Los Angeles at D.C. United
New York at Dallas
MetroStars at Chicago

Japan baseball

Central League

W 1 L Pct GB
Chunichi 41 30 1 577
Yomiuri 40 32 0 595
Hanshin 37 37 0 590
Yokohama 35 39 0 617
Yokohama 33 36 1 478
Yokohama 33 36 1 478

Thursday's games
Chunichi 4, Yakult 1
Hiroshima 2, Hanshin 2

Pacific League

W 1 L Pct GB
Seibu 49 12 1 611
Dai Nippon 42 16 0 649
Nippon Ham 37 42 0 668
Lotte 34 42 1 131
Kintetsu 33 46 2 139
Yokichi 33 46 2 139

Thursday's games
Seibu 3, Dai Nippon 3
Nippon Ham 7, Kintetsu 3

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Connecticut 8 7 588
Indiana 8 7 533
Indiana 8 7 525
New York 8 8 471
Washington 8 8 467

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Los Angeles 10 5 667
Seattle 10 5 657
Phoenix 8 7 471
Minnesota 7 8 467
Portland 8 8 444
Sacramento 6 9 430
San Antonio 5 12 294

Wednesday's games
Washington 72, Seattle 71
Los Angeles 73, Phoenix 71
Seattle at Charlotte
Phoenix at New York
Friday's games
Washington at New York
Sacramento at Connecticut
Portland at Los Angeles
Los Angeles at San Antonio

Tour de France

Thursday
At Chartres, France
Fifth Stage
124.9-mile leg from Amiens to Chartres

1. Stuart O'Grady, Australia, Cofidis Credit
2. Jakob Piller, Denmark, Team CSC, same time.
3. Sandy Casar, France, Ixieu.com, same time.

4. Magnus Backstedt, Sweden, Alessio-Bianchi, same time.
5. Robbie McEwen, Australia, Lotto-Domo, 12 minutes, 33 seconds behind.

6. Janek Tombak, Estonia, Cofidis Credit
7. Pär Torgersson, Sweden, same time.
8. Thor Hushovd, Norway, Credit Agricole, same time.

9. Rene Haselbacher, Austria, Gerolstein, same time.
10. Jean-Pierre Nazon, France, AG2R Prevoyance, same time.

11. Erik Zabel, Germany, T-Mobile Team, same time.
12. Jan Kirsipuu, Estonia, AG2R Prevoyance, same time.

13. Danilo Dionisi, Germany, Gerolstein, same time.
14. Alan Davis, Australia, Liberty Seguros, same time.

15. Gerrit Domsch, Austria, AG2R Prevoyance, same time.
16. Laurent Brochard, France, AG2R Prevoyance, same time.

17. Sebastian Hinault, France, Credit Agricole, same time.
18. Michael Ullrich, Germany, T-Mobile Team, same time.

19. Michele Scarponi, Italy, Domina Vacanze, same time.
20. Andreas Klöden, Germany, T-Mobile Team, same time.

Also
23. George Hincapie, United States, US Postal Service, same time.
24. Lance Armstrong, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, same time.

Overall Standings (After 5 Stages)
1. Thomas Vockler, France, Brioche La Boulanger, 20 hours, 3 minutes, 49 seconds.
2. Stuart O'Grady, Australia, Cofidis Credit, same time.

3. Sandy Casar, France, Ixieu.com, 4:06 behind.
4. Magnus Backstedt, Sweden, Alessio-Bianchi, 4:10 behind.

5. Jakob Piller, Denmark, Team CSC, 6:58 behind.
6. Janek Tombak, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 9:35.

Tennis

Swiss Open
Thursday
At Roy Emerson Arena, Gstaad, Switzerland
Surface: Clay-outdoor

First Round
1. Andre Agassi, U.S., David Ferrer (F), 6-3, 7-6(2).
2. Rainer Schüttler (G), Germany, def. Florian Mayer, Germany, 6-3, 6-2.

3. Marc Rosset, Switzerland, leads Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
4. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

Second Round
1. Felix Mantilla, Spain, def. David Ferrer (F), 6-3, 7-6(2).
2. Rainer Schüttler (G), Germany, def. Florian Mayer, Germany, 6-3, 6-2.

3. Marc Rosset, Switzerland, leads Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
4. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

Swedish Open
Thursday
At Bastad Tennis Stadium, Bastad, Sweden
Surface: Hardwood

First Round
1. Juan Ignacio Chela (A), Argentina, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 6-4, 7-5.
2. Rainer Schüttler (G), Germany, def. Tommy Robredo (S), Spain, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

3. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
4. Patience, France, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
5. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

6. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
7. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

8. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
9. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

10. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
11. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

12. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
13. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

14. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
15. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

16. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
17. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

18. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
19. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

20. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
21. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

22. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
23. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

24. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
25. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

26. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
27. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

28. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
29. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

30. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
31. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

32. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
33. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

34. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
35. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

36. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
37. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

38. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
39. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

40. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.
41. Radek Stepanek, Republic, 4-2, 3-5.

Matta changes mid, takes Ohio State job

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The search lasted 29 days. Thad Matta's turnaround took a week.

Seven days after declaring he had no interest in leaving Xavier for the vacant Ohio State basketball coaching job, Matta accepted the position on Wednesday.

His change of heart happened after a conversation late Tuesday night with Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger.

"As of last night, I was not going to go to Ohio State," Matta told Cincinnati television station WCPO on Wednesday night. "I spoke with Mr. Geiger late last night and through our conversation decided to go up there today. And 6:30 tonight is basically when I accepted the job."

Xavier athletic director Dawn Rogers confirmed Matta's hiring in an e-mail to The Associated Press shortly after she received a call from his early Wednesday evening.

Miller, Matta's top assistant since 2001, was promoted to head coach at Xavier on Thursday. Miller, 35, has been an assistant for 12 years at five schools.

Matta, who will turn 36 on Wednesday, interviewed with Geiger, members of the search committee and Ohio State President Karen Holtzworth on Wednesday morning. He was offered the job soon after the search committee met for 45 minutes at Ohio Stadium a few hours later.

Ohio State fired coach Jim O'Neil after seven years on June 8, six weeks after he admitted to Geiger that he had paid a recruit \$6,000 in 1999.

In three years as the Muskies' head coach, Matta's team has a record of 78-23. He was 24-8 in his only season as head coach at his alma mater, Butler.

Asshorthy remains in lead at Nagoya sumo
NAGOYA, Japan — Grand champion Asshorthy was all business Wednesday as he drew out Kotojima to remain undefeated and tied for the lead at the Nagoya Grand Sumo Tournament.

Asshorthy got both hands on the back of Kotojima's belt shortly after the face off and calmly lifted the No. 3 maegashira up to improve to 5-0 in the 15-day meet at Aichi Prefectural Gymnasium.

Kotojima saw his record fall to 2-3.
Asshorthy, who is gunning for his fourth straight Emperor's Cup and eighth overall, is tied for the lead with seventh-ranked maegashira Miyabiyama.

La Salle coaches placed on leave in rape investigation
PHILADELPHIA — La Salle men's basketball coach Billy Hahn and women's coach John Miller were put on administrative leave with pay while police investigate rape accusations against players.

The coaches were placed on leave Tuesday and there is no timetable for their return, univer-

Sports briefs

sity spokesman Joe Donovan said Thursday.

Police have been investigating a recent rape accusation against two members of the La Salle men's basketball team and an accusation of an attack more than a year ago.

A 19-year-old woman told police she was assaulted by two men's team players in a La Salle dormitory in June. Detectives later learned a player on the La Salle women's basketball team said she was raped by a player on the men's team in April 2003 but never reported it to police.

No charges have been filed in either case.

Richardson's lawsuit against Arkansas dismissed
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Nolan Richardson's race discrimination lawsuit against Arkansas was dismissed Thursday by a federal judge who said the case was mostly about "wounded pride."

The basketball coach was fired March 1, 2002. He filed suit claiming he was fired because he is black and that his free-speech rights were violated.

"This lawsuit is not about money in the pejorative sense," U.S. District Judge William R. Wilson said. "It is primarily about wounded pride — wounded pride in a man who started way behind, but climbed to the top by hard work, savvy, and most of all, perseverance."

Wilson said there was not enough evidence of racial bias or violation of free speech, but "the record is a long way from devoid of incidents which could cause him to hold these beliefs."

Matsui, Abreu win fan voting on Internet for All-Star spots
NEW YORK — Yankees outfielder Hideki Matsui and Philadelphia's Bobby Abreu earned the final spots on the All-Star teams in Internet fan voting completed Wednesday.

Matsui became the seventh member of the Yankees to make the 32-man AL squad. He has been an All-Star in both of his seasons since leaving Japan.

Matsui is batting .282 with 16 home runs and 54 RBIs.

Abreu made the All-Star team for the first time. The right fielder was batting .301 with 17 homers and 57 RBIs going into Wednesday night's game against the New York Mets.

Patriots release CB Smith
FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots released cornerback Smith on Wednesday, less than three months after re-signing the 14-year veteran.

The team offered no explanation for the move.

The 38-year-old Smith played with the Detroit Lions last season, starting the final 13 games and finished with 59 tackles, one interception and 1.5 sacks.

TANK McNAMARA

WHEN THE CELEBRITY MYSTERY INTENTIONAL WALKER GETS THE BALL TO THROW THE FOUR MEGAPHONE PITCHES...
WHAT WAS ONCE BASEBALL'S DULLEST MOMENT BECAME ITS MOST ENTERTAINING



BILL CLINTON'S PLUGGING HIS BOOK 'I'D BE CATCHER IF I DIDN'T SHOW UP'...
IT'S THE CELEBRITY CATCHER



DO I WEAR THE BERT?



Four homers back Rodriguez's shutout

Delucci hits a pair as Rangers top Tribe, pad AL West lead

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ricardo Rodriguez pitched a three-hitter for his first career shutout and David Delucci hit two of Texas' four home runs in leading the Rangers to a 10-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday.

Delucci hit a two-run homer in the fourth and a three-run shot in the eighth to match a career-high with five RBIs.

Michael Young led off the game with a homer and Kevin Mench also hit a two-run homer, giving the Rangers a major league-leading 130 homers.

Texas won for the fifth time in six games and built a 1½-game lead over second-place Oakland in the AL West by taking three of four games at Jacobs Field.

The Indians lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Rodriguez (2-0) walked two and struck out a career-high six in his third start and fourth appearance since being recalled from the minors June 26.

Young hit the second pitch from Scott Elarton (0-2) over the center-field wall for his 12th homer. Texas made it 3-0 in the second on Mench's 12th homer, a ball that right-fielder Jody Gerut got a glove on but could not hold.

White Sox 9, Angels 8: Juan Uribe's single on one out in the bottom of the ninth scored Jose Valentin with the deciding run. Valentin opened the inning with a strike and went to third on Paul Konerko's single.

Damaso Marte (3-2) struck out both batters he faced in the top of the inning. Reliever Brandon Donnelly (1-2) took the loss.



Texas Rangers pitcher Ricardo Rodriguez, right, gets a hug from teammate Kenny Rogers after pitching the Rangers to a 10-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians on Thursday.

In Wednesday's AL games:

Twins 12, Royals 0: Kyle Lohse (3-6) followed Johan Santana and Brad Radke by throwing the Twins' club-record third straight shutout, a six-hitter.

Santana started the series with a three-hitter, Radke pitched a four-hitter, and Lohse closed out the sweep as Minnesota struck out an opponent in three consecu-

tive games for the first time in its 44-year history. The streak of 27 scoreless innings is a franchise high.

The Twins' trip became the first to accomplish the feat since Baltimore's Mike Mussina, Scott Erickson and Kevin Brown in September 1995.

Rookie Joe Mauer had his first career four-hit game, and Minnesota's first five batters — Cristian Guzman, Lew Ford,

Mauer, Corey Koskie and Torii Hunter — went 14-for-21 and scored all 12 runs. Hunter and Matthew LeCroy each had three RBIs.

Royals starter Dennis Reyes (2-4) got only three outs and was replaced by Justin Huisman after hitting Koskie with a pitch in the second.

Red Sox 11, Athletics 3: Pedro Martinez (9-3) allowed a run and five hits in seven innings and got Boston pounded Oakland. Nomar Garciaparra, Manny Ramirez and Mark Bellhorn homered for the Red Sox, who scored 22 runs on 32 hits in the first two games of the series.

Oakland's Mark Redman (6-5) allowed six earned runs on nine hits in 2½ innings.

Angels 12, White Sox 0: Jarrod Washburn (9-4) pitched a four-hitter for his first career shutout and Jose Guillen homered twice and tied a career-high with five RBIs for visiting Anaheim.

Angels catcher Bengie Molina grounded into a 5-4 triple play, the first for the White Sox since June 6, 1996.

Scott Schoeneweis (5-7) lost his fifth straight decision, allowing six runs in five innings.

Blue Jays 12, Mariners 4: Josh Phelps homered twice, including a grand slam that landed in the fifth deck at SkyDome, and had a career-high seven RBIs to lead Toronto over struggling Seattle.

Phelps also hit a two-run homer off Travis Blackley (1-1) and added an RBI double. Toronto's Josh Towers (3-3) allowed four runs and 10 hits in 6½ innings.

The Mariners have lost five straight.

Rangers 9, Indians 8: Gary Matthews Jr. and Mark Teixeira hit two-run homers in the seventh as host Cleveland's bullpen blew its 2½ save opportunities as relievers connected off Jeremie Robertson (1-1) and Matthews hit his off Rick White. Reliever Ron Mahay (2-0) won and Francisco Cordero got his 26th save.

Devil Rays 13, Orioles 3: Rob Bell (3-3) took a two-hitter into the eighth and Tony Hall and Damian Lora had three RBIs apiece for visiting Tampa Bay. Baltimore's John Parrish (5-3) and four relievers combined to allow 14 hits and 11 walks.

Ishii makes quick work of Diamondbacks

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kazuhisa Ishii cruised to his latest victory over Arizona on July 2, 2004, 20 minutes. It was a long night for the Diamondbacks, though.

"He threw a lot of strikes to tonight. And when he throws strikes, he's very effective — especially against us," Arizona center fielder Steve Finley said. "He got the big lead and he just went right after us."

Ishii faced just 29 batters in his first career one-hitter, leading Los Angeles to a 10-0 consecutive victory, an 11-0 rout.

The left-hander, who has not allowed an earned run in six of his 10 career starts against Arizona, retired the first 12 batters before giving up a leadoff walk in the fifth to Luis Gonzalez and a line single to left by Shea Hillenbrand.

That was all the Diamondbacks could manage. Good the Hillenbrand advanced on a two-out wild pitch, but Juan Brito grounded out. No one else reached base against Ishii, who pitched a no-hit-



ter in Japan in 1997 for the Yakult Swallows.

Ishii (10-4) threw 103 pitches in his second career shutout, improving to 6-1 lifetime against Arizona. Three of his victories this season have come against the Diamondbacks.

"I just wanted to go as long as I could to give the relievers some rest," he said through a translator, an 11-0 rout.

Alex Cora capped a six-run first inning with a three-run homer off knuckleballer Steve Sparks (3-5) and the Dodgers kept the NL West race in a California jumble. San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco are separated by a half-game.

Ishii struck out five and walked one. He was coming off his shortest outing of the season, a 7-3 loss at Anaheim in which he gave up seven runs in three innings.

"There are some good hitters in that lineup, but Kaz was in com-

plete control," Dodgers outfielder Dave Roberts said. "He's 10-4 for a reason. He's got great stuff. Sometimes he might lose focus, but tonight he was dead set on going after the hitters."

Jayson Werth and Jason Grabowski hit consecutive homers in the fifth inning and Shawn Green had two RBI singles, helping the Dodgers complete their first three-game sweep of the Diamondbacks since September 2000.

Arizona has lost 16 of 18 and nine straight on the road, one short of the team record set last season.

Giants 8, Rockies 4: Barry Bonds hit his 681st home run and the host Giants snapped a four-game skid. Kirk Rueter (5-6) allowed three runs in 6½ innings, and Pedro Feliz had three RBIs.

Emergency starter Adam Bernero (1-1) took the loss. Joe Kennedy was scratched shortly before the game because of a sore shoulder.

Astros 5, Padres 1: Roy Oswalt (8-6) won his fourth straight start and Jose Vizcaino had a

two-run homer off Jake Peavy (5-3) among his four hits. Oswalt improved to 4-0 with a 1.13 ERA against the host Padres.

Pirates 4, Marlins 3: Oliver Perez (5-4) outpitched Carl Pavano (9-4) and visiting Pittsburgh held on thanks to some outstanding defense. Jose Mesa struck out Damian Easley with two on for his 22nd save. Easley also made a key error at first base.

Braves 14, Expos 2: At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jaret Wright (6-5) pitched six innings and Andruw Jones homered twice and drove in five runs. Jones and J.D. Drew went 4-for-4 and homered in the sixth inning as the Braves swept the three-game series and won for the 10th time in 13 games.

Charles Thomas, Adam LaRoche and Rafael Furcal also connected as part of Atlanta's 17-hit attack. Livan Hernandez (6-8) lasted only two-plus innings.

Brewers 4, Cubs 0: Doug Davis (9-6) pitched four-hit ball for eight innings and struck out a career-high nine and Geoff Jen-

kins hit a two-run homer to help the host Brewers complete a rare three-game sweep of Chicago.

Carlos Zambrano (9-4) allowed four runs and four walks in 5½ innings. The Cubs hadn't been

struck out three times in three games since 2002 by Cincinnati.

Cardinals 4, Reds 2: Shortstop Barry Larkin's second error of the season led to the go-ahead run and Reggie Sanders' seventh-inning single sent the Cardinals to their sixth straight victory.

Jim Edmonds homered to help St. Louis sweep the three-game series and improve to 6-0 on its homestand. Jason Iringhausen got his 20th save.

Mets 10, Phillies 1: Mike Cammer homered twice and drove in three runs against Trachsel (9-6) pitched seven innings. Kaz Matsui had four hits and Cliff Floyd and Ty Wigginton homered for New York, which has won five of six at Philadelphia.

Pat Burrell homered for the Phillies, who have two runs in the past two games. Trachsel (9-6) pitched seven innings. New York's Brett Myers (5-6) gave up six runs and nine hits in 3½ innings.

American Phelps sets 400 IM mark

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Michael Phelps claimed the first spot on the U.S. Olympic swim team with a world-record performance. He believes he can go even faster in Athens.

The 19-year-old from Baltimore broke his own record in the 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4 minutes, 8.41 seconds Wednesday on the opening night of the trials.

"I wanted to go into the Olympics with the fastest time in the world," he said.

Phelps set the previous record of 4:09.09 last year in the world championships in Barcelona, where he became the first swimmer in history to break world records in one meet.

There's no telling what he'll do in his other five events in the eight-day trials. Phelps' goal is to break Mark Spitz's 32-year-old world record of seven Olympic gold medals.

"There are a few things I can fix, so at least I hope there's another hundredth or tenth in that," he said about possibly lowering his latest world mark in Athens.

Natalie Coughlin, also expected to emerge as a star in Athens, will



Michael Phelps celebrates after breaking the world record in the 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4 minutes 8.41 seconds at the U.S. Olympic swim trials in Long Beach, Calif., on Wednesday.

swim her first event Thursday in the 100 backstroke.

Three-time Olympian Jenny Thompson, who has a record 10 Olympic medals but not an individual gold, qualified for the 100 butterfly final Thursday night. She was fifth fastest in the semifinals at 59.17 seconds.

"I look to get better and better," she said.

Ed Moses and Brendan Hansen, who shared the American record, set up a showdown in the 100 breaststroke final Thursday night.

Hansen's semifinal time of 1:00.13 gave him sole possession

of the American record and just missed the world mark of 59.78 set by Japan's Kosuke Kitajima. Moses qualified fourth at 1:01.82.

Phelps was off record pace through the opening butterfly leg of the 400 IM, but made up for it in the backstroke. He even had a chance to sneak a glimpse at the scoreboard.

"If there's a clock there, I'm going to look," Phelps said.

The crowd of more than 7,000 fans chanted "Go! Go! Go!" each time Phelps poked his head above water during the breaststroke.

They rose to their feet as he powered to the wall during the freestyle portion.

Bobcats' Okafor chosen to round out U.S. team

The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The chance to win an Olympic gold medal just months after an NCAA title was too good for Emeka Okafor to turn down.

Okafor was selected for the U.S. Olympic basketball team Thursday, filling the final spot on the squad headed to the Athens Games.

"I came off a national championship, and now I have a chance to get a gold medal," he said. "That's one of the reasons I jumped at this opportunity. I'm really looking forward to it."

Okafor, the second overall pick in the NBA Draft by the expansion Carolina Bobcats, was officially added to the team along with Carmelo Anthony, Carlos Boozer, Lamar Odom and Dwyane Wade.

Okafor, who starred at Connecticut, is the only player on the team who has yet to play in the NBA.

"I think his selection is the neatest one," U.S. Olympic coach Larry Brown said. "He's been three years in college and had an incredible career."

Okafor played for the U.S. team in last year's Pan Am Games, bringing some international experience to a young team. The players will be an average of 23 years old when the games begin.

"I learned in the Pan Am Games that the international game is played a little different," Okafor said. "They have a great understanding of the game and stick to the fundamentals."

The rest of the U.S. team is expected to the Aug. 13-29 Games is: Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson, LeBron James, Richard Jefferson, Stephen Marbury, Shawn Marion and Amar'e Stoudemire.

USA Basketball also confirmed that five players previously selected for the team — Mike Bibby, Jason Kidd, Karl Malone, Tracy McGrady and Jermaine O'Neal

— have withdrawn because of injuries or personal reasons.

Reports: Magic, Turkoglu agree to \$39-million deal

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic, in dire need of a small forward, have reached an agreement with restricted free agent Hedo Turkoglu on a six-year, \$39 million contract, according to published reports.

The 6-foot-10 Turkoglu will sign the offer sheet July 14, the first day that NBA rules allow free-agent signings. Florida Today and the Orlando Sentinel reported the Spurs's offers.

A Magic spokesman said the team could not comment and Turkoglu's agent, Lon Babby, did not return a phone call Thursday.

San Antonio can match Orlando's offer, but Magic officials believe the Spurs will part with Turkoglu because the team is focused on re-signing free agents Bruce Bowen and Manu Ginobili.

The Spurs have 15 business days to decide, meaning that the signing could come as late as Aug. 4 for the 25-year-old Turkoglu, who averaged 9.2 points and 4.5 rebounds last season.

He played his first three seasons with the Sacramento Kings, averaging 7.5 points and 3.4 rebounds.

"Hedo had his choice of teams, but he really thought this would be the best situation for him," Babby told Florida Today. "Nobody made him any promises (about starting) because their roster is still very fluid. But he's seeing this as a great opportunity."

Blount, Celts agree on deal

BOSTON — Free-agent center Mark Blount and the Boston Celtics agreed on a six-year deal Thursday.

The 7-foot, 250-pound Blount appeared in every regular season game for the Celtics last season, averaging 10.3 points and 7.2 rebounds per game.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

NCAA places Villanova men on probation

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Villanova's men's basketball team was placed on two years' probation by the NCAA on Thursday for recruiting and benefits violations.

The Wildcats will not be subject to a postseason ban or loss of scholarships for a while after strict enforcement.

The violations occurred during a two-year period from fall

2001 to March 2003. Villanova said they were unintentional and provided no more than a minimal recruiting advantage. The school suggested it should serve one year of probation.

The NCAA's infractions committee disagreed, saying the violations were small but so numerous that "in combination, the violations caused this case to rise to the level of 'major' in nature."

The violations included imper-

missible contact with prospective players at the home of coach Jay Wright, arranging transportation for prospects and making phone calls, the committee said.

"I take responsibility for our program," Wright said.

"We take the Villanova tradition and the integrity of Villanova very seriously. This was a case where our basketball staff acted ethically and with the correct intentions. We are going to do a better job."

Pack: France's Voekler takes overall lead

PACK, FROM BACK PAGE

"A team like Broches will work really hard to defend," Armstrong said. But "we're confident with the gap where it is. This bike race is so much different from any other race, the intensity of the climbs is a lot greater than anything."

Voekler acknowledged he's no match for cycling's dominant rider.

"Oh, I don't think he's worried about me," he said.

Australia's Stuart O'Grady, who seeded the pack with Voekler and three others, won Thursday's stage, a 124.6-mile trek from Amiens to Chartres.



Phil Mickelson, who has never finished in the top 10 of the British Open, skipped his practice round to check out the course.

Mickelson sluggish in Scottish Open

The Associated Press

LUSS, Scotland — Phil Mickelson skipped his practice round in the Scottish Open to get a look at Royal Troon, so his 1-over 72 on Thursday that left him seven shots out of the lead was not surprising.

The Masters champion and U.S. Open runnerup did not seem all that concerned. "It wasn't the best round," Mickelson said. "But I've got an early tee time tomorrow and I'll try to turn it around."

Showing the Scottish Open means different things to different players, Jose Manuel Lara shot a 6-under 65 and was tied for the lead with Phillip Price and 50-year-old Eduardo Romero at Loch Lomond.

Mickelson has one eye on the

Golf roundup

British Open, the one major in which he has never finished in the top 10. Lara, on the other hand, needs a top finish in the Scottish Open just to play in golf's oldest championship next week at Royal Troon. The top player at Loch Lomond not already eligible gets into the British Open.

Lara, a 27-year-old Spaniard, got off to a good start in surprisingly sunny conditions along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. He made four birdies in a five-hole stretch to start the back nine, then polished off a bogey-free round of 65.

Emanuele Canonica is in the same position as Lara, and re-

sponded with a 66. Former British Open champion Tom Lehman, one of a handful of Americans in the field, birdied the final hole and was among those at 67.

Thomas Bjorn was at 69, while Colin Montgomerie shot 68, playing well in defending champion Ernie Els (70) and Lee Westwood (71).

British Open champion Ben Curtis had a 73.

Morgan shoots 65, leads Senior Players Championship

DEARBORN, Mich. — Gil Morgan fell one shot short of his first-round record in the Senior Players Championship on Thursday, taking a three-stroke lead with a 7-under 65.

Dana Quigley, the "Iron Man" of the Champions Tour, was among the six players at 4 under.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Gordon running with young guns

Old pro competing for fifth Cup championship under new scoring system

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

In any other season, Jeff Gordon would be a long shot to win the championship.

But under NASCAR's new points system, Gordon is a legitimate threat. After back-to-back victories the past two weeks, he might even be the top contender.

Coming off dominating wins on two very different racetracks — the windy road course at Sonoma and the superspeedway at Daytona — Gordon headed into Sunday's race in Chicago in third place in the standings, 232 points behind leader Jimmie Johnson.

Making up that kind of ground would have been a struggle under the old points system. But this year, NASCAR will reset the field with ten races to go and all drivers in the top 10 will run for the championship. "If you're leading, you hate this system. And if you're way back, you love it," Gordon said. "It's going to be extremely interesting as to how it all turns out over the final 10 because at that point, basically everything you did all year long is a wash."

"You'd just better hope that your momentum and the experiences you've had are the payoff and you have that in those last 10."

Johnson, Gordon's teammate at Hendrick Motorsports, had not wavered in his dislike for the new points system.

And why should he? He'll have worked hard for 26 races to put himself in position to win his first NASCAR championship. Then, just when it's within his reach, he'll have Gordon bearing down on him in pursuit of his fifth title.

It could be a strain on the four-year-old relationship that began when Gordon became Johnson's mentor, friend and co-owner of Johnson's car.

"It will be different for sure," Johnson said. "Obviously, we have raced against each other for wins and competed at that level,

but a championship will be a whole new thing."

Because the field will be reset, it's possible any of the drivers eligible for the final 10-race shootout could win the title. But garage insiders already have an idea on how it might play out.

"I think the two Hendrick cars have a really good chance of finishing 1-2 in the championship," said car owner Ray Evernham, who won three championships as Gordon's crew chief. "Jimmie and Jeff both look like they can make a run at it."

Until recently, Gordon was just trying to keep up with Johnson.

Although he has a series-high four victories and won back-to-back races in April at Talladega and California Speedway, the No. 24 team faltered with horrible runs in Charlotte and Dover.

The Charlotte race was the low point of the season. Gordon started third, but the car was never good and they finished 30th, seven laps down from race-winner Johnson.

The rebound began in mid-June at Michigan, when Gordon won the pole and led 81 of the first 88 laps until his engine blew. Despite his 38th-place finish, Gordon showed he was back.

He's won two

races since then, starting from the pole each time for three consecutive front-row spots.

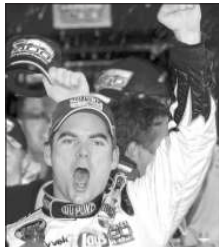
"I tell you what, it makes me feel pretty darn good right now, that's for sure," Gordon said. "What a way to get momentum — to be strong week-in and week-out, on totally different types of tracks."

Now he heads to Chicago, one of just four tracks on the circuit where Gordon has yet to win. Despite his failure to reach Victory Lane there, Gordon has two top-fives and an average finish of 7.6 in three starts at the 1.5-mile speedway.

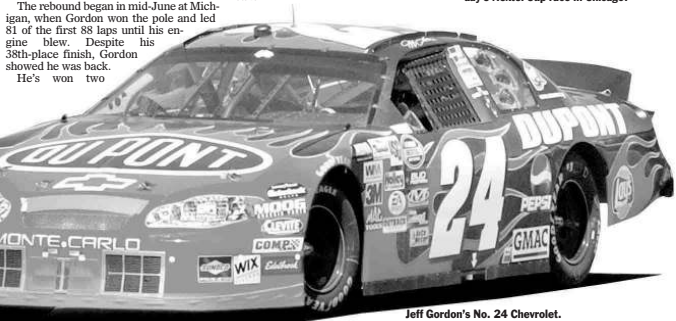
Gordon, who needs just one more win to tie Dale Yarborough for third on Nextel Cup's modern-era list with 69 victories, would love for it to come at Chicago.

"It would be nice to win at a track that we haven't won on yet," he said. "It's a cool statistic, but that's not my goal."

"My goal is to get better everywhere we go, try to win every race and, ultimately, win the championship. Winning at a track we've never won on would be icing on the cake."



Jeff Gordon is riding the momentum of back-to-back victories heading into Sunday's Nextel Cup race in Chicago.



Jeff Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet.

AP photo

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 18: Tropicana 400, 4:30 a.m. Monday, AFN-Atlantic

Last race: Jeff Gordon, starting from the pole for the third consecutive race, recorded his second straight win at the Pepsi 400 in Daytona. His Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson finished second.

Gordon, already the leader among active Nextel Cup drivers in victories at Daytona and Talladega, earned his eighth restrictor-plate

victory and became the first driver to win the Pepsi 400 from the pole since Cale Yarborough in 1981.

Last year: Ryan Newman stretched his last tank of fuel and won the Tropicana 400, spoiling Kevin Harvick's bid for three straight Chicagoland Speedway victories. Harvick ran out of gas two laps from the finish.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

<p>Kevin Harvick has led 188 laps in 107 races, more than any other driver. He's in 10th place and in the bubble for the new "Chase for the Championship."</p>	<p>Jamie McMurray has nine top-10 finishes, but he's failed to score a win in his last four races. He's hoping to win the Chase for the Championship.</p>	<p>Matt Kenseth was 39th with a DNF last week at Daytona. The first time in four races he's finished outside the top 20. He fell from third to fifth in the standings.</p>
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<p>Qualifying record Tony Stewart, 184.786 mph, 2003.</p> <p>Race record Kevin Harvick, 136.832 mph, July 14, 2002.</p>	<p>FAST FACTS Johnson has four straight top-five finishes, nine in his last 10 races, and 12 this season. He leads Dale Earnhardt Jr. by 27 points in the championship race. Tony Stewart has two top-five finishes in his last three starts at Chicagoland Speedway. Harvick won the first two Nextel Cup races at Joliet in 2001 and 2002.</p>
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POINTS RACE

After 17 of 36 races

1. Jimmie Johnson 2,545
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 2,518
3. Jeff Gordon 2,313
4. Tony Stewart 2,303
5. Matt Kenseth 2,189
6. Bobby Labonte 2,164
7. Kurt Busch 2,153
8. Elliott Sadler 2,152
9. Ryan Newman 2,112
10. Kevin Harvick 2,095
11. Casey Mears 1,994
12. Jeremy Mayfield 1,948
13. Jamie McMurray 1,948
14. Mark Martin 1,939
15. Dale Jarrett 1,918
16. Casey Mears 1,880
17. Rusty Wallace 1,835
18. Michael Waltrip 1,822
19. Brian Vickers 1,792
20. Sterling Marlin 1,790

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Tropicana Twister 300 in Joliet, Ill. (Live, 3 a.m. Sunday, AFN Sports).

Last race: Mike Wallace jumped from fifth to first on the last lap and won the Winn-Dixie 250 at Daytona Beach, Fla. The victory snapped Wallace's 13-race winless streak in Busch races dating to 1994.

Last year: Bobby Hamilton Jr. overpowered the field, leading all but a handful of laps in winning the Tropicana 400. He also took the lead from polestarter Casey Mears on the last lap and led 186 of the 200 laps around the 1.5-mile oval, including the last 53.

This week: British Grand Prix in Silverstone, England.

Last year: Michael Schumacher continued his dominance by winning the French Grand Prix for the seventh time. Schumacher has won nine of the first 10 races this season and has a 22-point lead over Rubens Barrichello in the championship standings.

Last year: Ferrari's Barrichello won the British Grand Prix, ending the recent dominance of Williams-BMW. Barrichello finished 54 seconds ahead of Felipe Massa of Williams-BMW in a race disrupted on the 12th lap when a man ran onto the track.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Built Ford Tough 225 in Lexington, Ky. (Live, 9 a.m. Sunday, AFN Sports).

Last race: Carl Edwards overcame a first-lap accident to win the O'Reilly Auto Parts 250 at Kansas Speedway. But Edwards' Ford failed inspection after the race because it did not meet the minimum fuel requirements.

Last year: Edwards raced to his first truck victory, beating Ted Musgrave by 3.588 seconds in the Built Ford Tough 225.

Last year: Tracy led every lap of the Molitor Indy and easily beat Michel Jourdain Jr. to win his home track in Toronto for the first time in 10 years.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Grand Prix of Toronto (Live, 5 a.m. Monday, AFN Pacific).

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais took advantage of a first-lap crash that knocked out polestarter Paul Tracy and won the Cleveland Grand Prix for the second straight year.

Last year: Tracy led every lap of the Molitor Indy and easily beat Michel Jourdain Jr. to win his home track in Toronto for the first time in 10 years.

INDY RACING

Last race: Buddy Rice edged Rahal teammate Vitor Meira by .0052 seconds — the second-closest margin in series history — to win the Argent Mortgage Indy 300 at Kansas Speedway.

Next race: Firestone Indy 200, July 17, Gladsville, Tenn.

SPORTS



Rangers put on powerful display,
pad lead in AL West, Page 29

Armstrong runs with pack

Leader concedes yellow jersey to rest for later stages of Tour

BY JAMEY KEATEN
The Associated Press

CHARTRES, France — Lance Armstrong gave up two things in the Tour de France on Thursday: the yellow jersey and a chance to ride in the Athens Olympics.

Surrendering the jersey was a tactical move. Armstrong, bidding for a record sixth straight Tour title, willingly ceded the overall lead — for now — to Frenchman Thomas Voeckler. The Texan knows he must conserve strength for the brutal mountain stages ahead.

Armstrong finished 24th and dropped to sixth overall — 9 minutes, 35 seconds off Voeckler's pace.

As for next month's Olympics, Armstrong wants to return home to his children after months away training for cycling's toughest test. He knew his heart wouldn't be in the Summer Games.

"I've done the Olympics many times and if I don't have 100 percent motivation for something that's an important event, a very important event, then I don't want to take somebody else's spot," he said.

In training for the Tour, Armstrong said he had spent five months away from his son, Luke, and twins Grace and Isabelle.

"It's really hard to do and so I want to go home," said Armstrong, the bronze medalist in the 2000 Sydney Games, his best showing in three Olympics.

The decision to concede Thursday's fifth stage was part of Armstrong's strategy. When the Tour veers into the Alps and climbs with a punishing time trial, Armstrong wants to be ready.

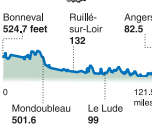
Until then, Armstrong is willing to let second-tier riders like Voeckler and his Brioches La Boulangerie team shoulder the pressure that goes with the leader. Armstrong is confident he'll have overtaken them when the race finishes in Paris on July 25.

91st TOUR DE FRANCE

Downhill dash

The Tour races downhill from Bonneval to Angers, Bonneval first hosted a stage in 1999, Angers in 1936.

Stage 6
Friday, July 9



SOURCE: Tour de France AP

"Tactically, it's a great move for us with Brioches La Boulangerie in the yellow jersey," Armstrong said. "Voeckler is a good young rider. He's French and I think it's a good thing."

With wind-swept rain and crashes troubling riders, Armstrong and his U.S. Postal Service team decided not to chase as Voeckler and four other riders broke away from the main pack.

Armstrong said he believed Voeckler may be able to defend the lead into the Pyrenees at the end of the second week, but he expects the Frenchman to buckle under the race's grueling demands.

SEE PACK ON PAGE 30



Lance Armstrong, above, wore the yellow jersey for just one day before conceding it to France's Thomas Voeckler in the fifth stage Thursday. Armstrong is saving his strength for the mountain stages near the end.

Racing Stripes: Gordon giving Nextel Cup's young guns a good run in quest for his fifth series title

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Phelps' opening statement in swim trials: world record in 400 individual medley

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